

India Review

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Independence Day in D.C.



Ambassador Ronen Sen unfurling the tricolour at the Embassy Residence to mark the 60th Independence Day on August 15.

■ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls for a 'New India' in his I-Day speech; expresses concern on security

■ India's Air Chief Marshal Tyagi visits the U.S., meets senior officials of Defence Department, Air Force

■ Tata Tea, Tata Sons buy U.S. firm Energy Brands for \$677 mn. in largest overseas acquisition by India Inc

Sen visits Los Angeles, Houston, Raleigh; hosts a party for the National Press Club

Ambassador Ronen Sen was the Chief Guest at the closing session of the 'U.S.-India Investment Seminar and Business Expo 2006' jointly organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and U.S.-Asia Business Association at the Los Angeles Convention Center on August 22.

Saroj Poddar, President, FICCI, Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI, Gurbax S. Bhasin, President, U.S.-Asia Business Forum, and Kevin Kaul spoke on the occasion.

Earlier speakers at the event included Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, California Lt. Governor Cruz M. Bustamante, Minister of Food Processing Industries Subodh Kant Sahai, and Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ashok Jha.

Visit to Raleigh, N.C.

Sen paid a three-day visit to Raleigh, NC, from August 24-26, where he met leading local political leaders, including U.S. Congressmen. His interviews to local TV, radio and print media were given extensive coverage.

The Ambassador addressed the faculty and students of the North Carolina State University at a reception hosted by Chancellor James L. Oblinger. During his visit to University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Sen participated in a structured interactive luncheon meeting with Deans of Departments and the Provost, which was hosted by Chancellor James Moeser.

Sen also visited RTI International, the second-largest complex in the U.S. engaged in advanced scientific research and technology development, where he met with RTI President Dr. Victoria Haynes and her senior colleagues. The Ambassador also gave an address, followed by a lively Q&A session, at the RTI.

He later had meetings with the Chancellor and Provost of Duke University and he and his wife had the opportunity to meet a cross-section of senior faculty members and students at a dinner hosted in their honor by University President Richard Broadhead and his wife at their residence.

Visit to Houston, TX

The Ambassador was the Chief Guest at the Seventh Annual Gala of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) held at Houston on August 27.

Senator John Cornyn, Houston Mayor Bill White, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Paul Hamilton,

President, Shell Global Solutions, and several other prominent personalities were present on the occasion. Sen and his wife attended a large Janamashtami celebration later that night in Houston.

Party for National Press Club Members

Ambassador and Mrs. Ronen Sen hosted a party at their residence on August 12 for around 300 members of the National Press Club.

Speaking on the occasion, Sen said that the purpose of the event was to salute the role of journalists in India and the U.S. in safeguarding democracy and promoting international understanding.

He pointed out that Mahatma Gandhi was not only an apostle of peace and non-violence and the leader of India's freedom struggle, but an active journalist associated with six journals.

Gandhi had founded and edited his first journal in South Africa in 1903, and continued its publication for over a decade, except for what he described were "intervals of enforced rest in prison". Gandhi saw his role as a journalist as a proponent of independent thinking, without fear or malice, and as a seeker of truth and justice.

Sen also recalled that Jawaharlal Nehru had promoted

Thrilling Odissi performance by a Japanese in Washington

The Embassy of India and Japanese Information and Culture Center (JICC) jointly organised in Washington, D.C., on July 20, an Odissi performance by Masako Ono, a Japanese dancer based in India. Ono has studied Odissi for more than ten years in Bangalore and Orissa under noted teachers like Protima Bedi and Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra. She has now started to combine Odissi with Haiku in fusion pieces and also performs Odissi to music of the Japanese bamboo orchestra.

Kalpna Sen, wife of Ambassador Ronen Sen, witnessed the performance as guest of honour and congratulated the artist.



freedom of the press as an essential aspect of our democracy. Nehru held long and interactive press conferences every month.

While inaugurating the publication of *Shankar's Weekly* in 1949, Nehru told the famous cartoonist: "Don't spare me, Shankar." Years later this was the title of a bulky compilation of Shankar's cartoons, mostly featuring Nehru, who had the capacity to tolerate barbs and laugh at himself.

Speaking on the occasion, Myron Belkind, Chairman of the International Correspondents Committee of the National Press Club, pointed out how things had changed since he went to India in 1966 on his first assignment as a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press.

Foreign correspondents in India during that era wrote about food shortages, economic stagnation and deteriorating relations between India and the U.S.

Today, foreign correspondents write about the food self-sufficiency of a population of 1.1 billion people, the second-fastest growing economy in the world and the closest-ever relations between the U.S. and India in many areas,



Myron Belkind, Chairman, International Correspondents Committee, National Press Club, addressing a party hosted by Ambassador Ronen Sen on August 12 for members of the club. Also seen in the photo are, from right to left, Kalpana Sen, Ambassador Sen, Jerry Zremski, Vice President of the National Press Club, and Venu Rajamony, Minister for Press, Information and Culture at the Embassy of India.

including economic, scientific and technological, defence and nuclear cooperation.

Vice President Jerry Zremski proposed a toast to the 60th Independence Day of India and thanked Sen and his wife, Kalpana, on behalf of the National Press Club for their hospitality.

In his words, "I have been a member of the Press Club since 1989 and I cannot remember any embassy ever showing this level of hospitality."



PHOTO ABOVE, from left, Hiroshi Furusawa, Director, JICC, Mitsuru Kitano, Minister for Public Affairs, Embassy of Japan, Mrs. Kalpana Sen and dancer Masako Ono. PHOTOS LEFT, Masako Ono performing. (Photos: Joseph Aranha)

60th I-Day celebrated at Ambassador's Residence

The 60th Independence Day of India was celebrated in Washington DC today (August 15, 2006) with Ambassador Ronen Sen hoisting the Indian flag at the Embassy Residence in front of a gathering of around 300 Indians and friends of India.

Following the flag hoisting, the National Anthem was sung and Ambassador Sen read out the President's address to the nation on the eve of the Independence Day. Eminent artists from India, Shevanthi Sanyal and Rajinder Kachroo gave a scintillating performance of patriotic songs and Ambassador Sen presented awards for academic excellence to 14 school children of the Embassy who have performed well in the last academic year.

The gathering at the Embassy Residence included officers of the Embassy and their families, senior journalists, retired army officers, Indian professionals, community leaders, scholars and friends of India.



PHOTO LEFT, Ambassador Ronen Sen reading the President's address to the nation on the eve of India's 60th Independence Day, at the Embassy Residence on August 15. PHOTO BELOW, eminent artists from India, Rajinder Kachroo and Shevanthi Sanyal performing at the event.



CELEBRATIONS in Consulates General



Houston celebrates Independence Day

THE 60th Independence Day celebration in Houston was marked by hoisting the National Flag by S.M. Gavai, Consul General of India, at his residence and singing of the National Anthem. All officials of the Consulate and members of their families attended the function.



Indian Consul General in San Francisco B.S. Prakash unfurled the National Flag at the Gadar Memorial on August 15.

I-Day Celebrations in San Francisco

INDEPENDENCE Day was celebrated by the Consulate General of India, San Francisco, at Gadar Memorial, a historic building. Consul General B.S. Prakash unfurled the National Flag. The Consul General made a special reference to the Gadar Movement — the first seeds of India's liberation were sown by leaders of this movement who, in the early part of the 20th century, had given a call for India's independence from the colonial yoke. He said that it was fortunate that we were celebrating the Independence Day at this location.

IN NEW YORK: The Consulate General of India, New York, celebrated the 60th Independence Day on August 15. Consul General Neelam Deo read out excerpts from the message of the President of India to the Nation. About 300 people attended the celebrations.

IN CHICAGO: Indian Consul General in Chicago Arun Kumar addressed the gathering at an event to mark the 60th Independence Day of India on August 15.



Prime Minister calls for a 'new India'; expresses concern on national security

P rime Minister Manmohan Singh unveiled his vision for "a new India" on the country's 60th Independence Day while warning that peace with Pakistan could be hit unless Islamabad took "concrete measures" to end cross-border terrorism.

In a nearly 50-minute speech from the ramparts of the Mughal-built Red Fort on August 15, Manmohan Singh spoke of a resurgent India in an era of globalisation without glossing over issues such as poverty, hunger and homelessness.

Reading a prepared speech in Hindustani, the Prime Minister under-

lined that an atmosphere of peace was vital for the success of the India-Pakistan peace process that began over two years ago.

"It is obvious that unless Pakistan takes concrete steps to implement the solemn assurances it has given to prevent cross-border terrorism against India from any territory within its control, public opinion in India, which has supported the peace process, will be undermined," he said.

Singh said India was ready to give its neighbours "a stake in our own prosperity and share the fruits of our growth with them". But, he added, "the dream of a South Asian community, where borders have ceased to matter and there is an unhindered flow of goods and peoples, culture and ideas, can hardly be realised if terrorist violence and the politics of hate and confrontation continue to cast a dark shadow."

In a speech repeatedly greeted with applause by the audience and viewed in millions of homes across the country, Prime Minister Singh spoke of the

country's all-round progress, but also pointed to the many failings such as persisting hunger and suicides by farmers burdened by debts.

The Prime Minister promised to "do whatever is required to keep prices under check" but said people needed to understand that they would have to pay more for food if farmers who grew them were to earn more.

"We must build a new India of their dreams," the Prime Minister said, referring to the country's young. "We have a dream of India."

(For full text of the speech, visit www.indianembassy.org)



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressing the nation.

Highlights of PM'S ADDRESS

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Bharat Nirman are weapons in the war on poverty
- Constituency for peace and shared prosperity exists in South Asia
- Global environment for India has improved, world wants India to progress
- Credit to farmers doubled in two years; Loans at reduced rate of 7 percent
- India is a nation of youth, who want to build a new India
- 120 million children covered under nutritious mid-day meal programme
- Nineteen new medical institutes set up; 3 new Indian Institutes of Science
- Reservations for socially backward sections of society
- Decade dedicated to better infrastructure, governance
- New special economic zones to boost industrial production and employment
- Progress on railways and urban metros, new airports and power plants
- Safety, security, empowerment of women a priority
- Fight against terror is no more business as usual
- Need for modernization of security and intelligence machinery
- Pakistan must take concrete steps against terror for peace process to move forward

President Abdul Kalam warns of 'low-intensity proxy war'

P resident A.P.J Abdul Kalam on August 14 said the "challenges to peace from across our geographical borders" and the "constant threat of low-intensity proxy war" required a comprehensive strategy to ensure India's security. Addressing the nation on the eve of the country's 60th Independence Day, a month after the 7/11 terror bombings in Mumbai, Kalam said he will also suggest to the government a National Campaign to Eradicate Terrorism and the formulation of a citizens' security bill to ensure compre-

hensive national security. "Only in an environment of stable peace can the nation concentrate on social and economic development," Kalam said in the address, covering issues from terrorism to development, with an added emphasis on national security.

"However, there are challenges to peace from across our geographical borders, from terrorism and violence and from scarcities created by rapidly depleting natural resources," Kalam said.

(For full text of the speech, visit www.presidentofindia.nic.in)



President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressing the nation

India has to protect its geo-economic interests: air chief

T At the invitation of Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, Air Chief

Marshal S.P. Tyagi, Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force (IAF), paid a visit to the U.S. from August 21 to 28. In Washington, D.C., the Indian Air Chief had meetings with the senior leadership in the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Air Force at the Pentagon. He visited various operational and air defense establishments.

The Air Chief addressed a well-attended session at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. During his intervention, he identified two key strands on the external front of India's strategic environment: Political instability in the country's immediate neighbourhood and the presence of various nuclear powers in the region.

From India's viewpoint of maintaining peace and stability and economic growth, he suggested that democratic political systems in the region would clearly be in India's interest because



Air Chief S.P. Tyagi at the Carnegie Endowment

established democratic traditions were generally found to be conducive to peace and security.

On the internal dimensions, he highlighted the security threat that India faces from extremism and terrorism perpetrated by non-state actors in India's neighbourhood.

The Air Chief noted that terrorism not only threatened peace and stability of India and the South Asian region, but also countries across the world

and there still remained political systems either unwilling or unable to deal with such elements. Air Chief Marshal Tyagi said it was critical to address this issue.

Another key focus of the Chief of Air Staff's address was the importance of energy security for India and in ensuring a free, uninterrupted flow of energy to fuel the economic growth which the leadership and the people of India wish to see.

He emphasised that India, with its impeccable track record, will always be an active participant in matters of international security.

The Air Chief also visited the Headquarters of the Pacific Air Forces at the Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii at the invitation of the Commander, Pacific Air Forces, Gen. Hester.

(For a detailed report on the speech, visit www.carnegieendowment.org)

Joint statement of the India-U.S. Financial and Economic Forum

At the invitation of U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Timothy D. Adams, Indian Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs Secretary, Ashok Jha, led an official delegation to Washington to co-chair the sub-cabinet meeting of the India-U.S. Financial and Economic Forum, which is part of the broader U.S.-India Economic Dialogue. The delegations discussed a number of key issues including developments in the global economy, policy responses to high oil prices, the WTO Doha Development Round negotiations, and efforts to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

(For details, visit www.indianembassy.org)

U.S.-India collaboration in military medicine, public health, education and research

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) of the U.S. has, over the past 25, has been collaborating with numerous Indian Institutions, resulting in over 60 scientific papers, a large number of Master's and Ph.D. theses and several joint, hands-on workshops

In April 2005, in a significant step toward bilateral cooperation on health, India's Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) and USUHS signed an agreement on medical training and academic cooperation in military medicine. Recently, Admiral V.K. Singh, Director General, AFMS, visited USUHS to execute the MOU.

The USUHS also organised two workshops at BITS, Pilani, and in Lucknow with King George's Medical University and the ITRC, on public health and medical education.

"With U.S.-India relations expanding... the importance of building coalitions and maintaining excellent... partnerships has never been as important as now. India and U.S. are noted for their long traditions of academic excellence... and strong cooperation between the countries. We are justly proud of our joint endeavors and trust the future years will prove to be as fruitful as the past 20-plus years," said Professor Robert Friedman, Chairman, and Professor Radha K. Maheshwari, Coordinator, Indo-U.S. Activities, at the USUHS.

(Photo and text are courtesy of Prof. Radha K. Maheshwari)



MOU Signing Ceremony at New Delhi

Indra Nooyi is named the next chief executive of PepsiCo

Indian American Indra Krishnamurthy Nooyi, once described as one of the “most powerful women in America”, has been named the next CEO of U.S. multinational PepsiCo. Chennai-born Nooyi, who will take charge on October 1, will succeed Steve Reinemund, who said that he is retiring to spend more time with his family, according to a press release.

“I am humbled by the opportunity to lead PepsiCo, and profoundly grateful to follow in the footsteps of Steve Reinemund, Roger Enrico, Wayne Calloway and Don Kendall,” Nooyi said after the announcement on August 14. “I am equally fortunate to have amazing partners, not only on the board and executive team, but in the 157,000 bright, talented colleagues around the world who deliver the results every day and are as com-


An alumna of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, Nooyi had earlier graduated in science from the Madras Christian College. She later went to Yale University.

mited as I am to continue capturing every growth opportunity,” she said.

Nooyi joined the \$33 billion global food and beverages company in 1994 and has served as president and chief financial officer since 2001, when she was also named to PepsiCo’s board of directors. She is the fifth CEO in

PepsiCo’s 41-year history.

An alumna of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM-C), she brings with her vast and unique skills to the job. She has directed the company’s global strategy for over a decade and was the architect of Pepsi-Co’s restructuring.

Nooyi graduated from Madras Christian College and, after IIM-C, did a management course at Yale University. She lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with her husband, Raj, and their two daughters. 



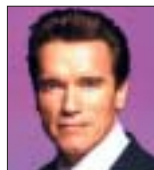
Largest-ever U.S. trade group to visit India

The U.S. Department of Commerce is scheduled to take the largest-ever business delegation to India in November with the aim of helping American businessmen explore opportunities in the country. The delegation will visit Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata between November 29 and December 5. Under Secretary for International Trade Franklin L. Lavin will head the mission that is expected to have representatives from 100 U.S. companies.

“The initiative... will serve as the capstone of a year of successful activities conducted under the auspices of the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue, honoring the commitment of President (George W.) Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to revitalise bilateral trade discussions,” the department said in its mission statement.

A flier posted on the department’s website notes: “India is the world’s fastest-growing free-market democracy and presents lucrative opportunities for all types of businesses, especially for U.S. companies.” In 2005, U.S. merchandise exports to India were almost \$8 billion, close to double the figure for 2002.

Schwarzenegger to lead business team to India



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will lead a business delegation to India early next year, The Indus

Entrepreneurs (TiE), a group of Indian-American business people, said. “I propose to bring leaders of 50-100 business units who could meet with their counterparts, speak with political leaders and foster new alliances. We need to see how California can increase trade with India, how India can manufacture more for California. We must find where we can share technologies,” Schwarzenegger said. He said Hollywood and Mumbai’s film industry, which produces the largest number of feature films in the world, could cooperate. He said other areas of cooperation include fashion and food.

Course for American executives on doing business in India

The Caltech Industrial Relations Center (IRC) for Executive Education has announced the launch of a course that aims to help American executives do business in India.

The two-day course, ‘Doing Business with India: Key Success Factors’, is designed to provide American executives with the insights and perspectives necessary to evaluate the opportunities of working in India and with Indian companies. Said Nick Nichols, director at the Caltech IRC, “U.S. companies invest significantly in overseas outsourcing, and India is becoming an increasingly promising market for U.S. products. This course helps executives understand the factors that are critical to being successful from a business and cultural standpoint.”

Executives will have opportunities to share experiences about Indian business ventures, including a networking dinner, at the Caltech campus.

Tata Tea, Tata Sons acquire U.S. firm Energy Brands for \$677 million

Biggest overseas acquisition by an Indian firm

In the largest-ever acquisition by an Indian company, the Tata Group picked up a 30 percent stake in Energy Brands Inc. of the U.S. — also known as Glacéau — a specialty mineral water and energy drink company. Under an agreement signed on August 24, Tata Sons and Tata Tea will invest \$677 million in Glacéau to purchase the stake previously held by TSG Consumer Partners and provide additional growth capital.

A release issued by the company said that the investment would boost the Tata Group's presence in the U.S. and provide opportunities for global growth.

"Glacéau is part of a very strong business and their line of Vitaminwater, Smartwater and Fruitwater will help us expand our beverage business in North America. Fuelled by the increasing trend towards health and wellness in

America, there has been an increasing demand for products like Vitaminwater," the company said.

The chairman of the company will initially be nominated by the Tata Group. Tata Tea has had been looking at increasing its business in North America where it recently acquired Eight O'Clock Coffee through Tata Coffee, a 51 percent subsidiary of Tata Tea and Good Earth Teas last year, apart from the Tetley brand, which also has a presence in the country.

SHOPPING ABROAD

Top ten overseas acquisitions by Indian companies

Acquirer	Acquisition	Value \$ million
Tata Tea	Energy Brands Inc.	677
Dr Reddy's	Betapharm	570
Suzlon Energy	Eve Holdings	520
Tata Steel	NatSteel	486
Tata Tea	Tetley	407
Tata Steel	Millennium Steel	404
Ranbaxy	Terapia	324
VSNL	Teleglobe	239
Tata Coffee	Eight O'Clock Coffee	220
Reliance	Flag	207

Excellent first quarter for corporate India

The April-June quarter has been among the best for India Inc. in recent times — while sales growth touched a five-quarter high, net profit zoomed to its highest in four quarters.

The performance has been powered by metal, cement, information technology, telecommunication, capital goods, auto ancillary, sugar and chemical firms.

The net sales of 1,023 companies that have announced their quarterly performance so far have risen by 31.7 percent, and net profit by 29.7 percent.

A performance analysis of a sample 854 companies (out of the 1,023 firms) — common in all five quarters beginning April-June 2005 — shows that this is the best showing put up by corporate India in terms of sales growth since the first quarter of 2005-06.

In terms of net profit growth, the companies have shown a substantial improvement over the last three quarters. The 854 companies have shown a 31 percent rise in net profit, and a 30.4 percent rise in net sales. Only manufacturing and services companies were considered in the analysis.

The eight high-growth sectors have registered a 45.5 percent rise in net sales, and a hefty 98 percent rise in net profit.

Freescal to set up research facility

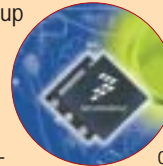
The \$5.8 billion, U.S.-headquartered Freescale Semiconductor is expanding its Indian operations by setting up a 100,00 square foot facility in Bangalore to support its R&D in software for wireless technologies.

"Investment in this facility strengthens Freescale's software platform solutions for mobile and consumer devices," said Sandeep Chennakeshu, senior

vice president-general manager of Freescale's wireless and mobile systems group.

"The new centre will develop software for wireless technology and house a laboratory for software validation," he added. Freescale designs and manufactures embedded semiconductors for the automotive, consumer, industrial and wireless markets.

It employs 700 engineers in India.



Club of millionaire CEOs swells by 111

The Indian corporate world produced 111 new millionaire CEOs in 2005-06, with the list of managers drawing an annual compensation package of \$215,165, or over Rs. 10 million, rising to 377 from 266 in 2004-05.

Of the 266 millionaire CEOs in 2004-05, the compensation package of 46 more than doubled, and the remuneration of another 64 rose between 50 percent and 100 percent. One hundred and eight promoter managers together received Rs. 3.3 billion, and the remaining 158 professional managers received Rs. 4.33 billion in 2005-06.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, topped the list with an annual compensation package of Rs. 245.1 million in 2005-06, against Rs. 217 million in the previous year.

Hero Honda Chairman Brijmohan Lall Munjal and its Managing Director Pawan Munjal last year took home Rs. 118 million and Rs. 115.7 million, respectively.

Car capacity to overtake U.K. and Canada

Auto-makers are striving to keep pace with the over 15 percent growth in the domestic car market in the last four years and are pumping in over \$2 billion increase capacities.

The proposed increase in capacities will take India's car production capacity past the psychological two million mark by the end of fiscal 2007-08, up 70 percent from 1.4 million units now.

At this level, India, which stood at No. 11 among global car producing nations, will move two steps ahead, past the U.K. (1.6 million) and Canada (1.35 million). It will be neck-and-neck with Brazil's two million capacity at No. 8.

GM to make small car Spark in Pune

General motors has finally decided to produce its small car -- Chevrolet Spark -- at Talegaon, near Pune.

The company will invest \$279.4 million in setting up a manufacturing unit for the car.

The plant, with an initial capacity to make 45,000 cars, will be ready for production by 2009.



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between the company and the Maharashtra government recently.

The plant will be spread over 300 acres, and will generate direct and indirect employment for 3,000 people, said sources in the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation.

Real Estate

JP Morgan's India realty fund raises \$360 million



JP Morgan Asset Management has raised \$360 million through its India Property Fund with capital commitments from institutional and high net worth investors in the U.S., Asia,

Europe and the Middle East.

The fund, with a target net internal rate of return of 20 percent, focuses on the development of new properties in the office, residential, industrial/warehouse, retail and hospitality sectors.

Through joint ventures with local developers, JP Morgan Asset Management will target India's key economic centers including Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Pune.

Morgan Stanley to invest \$1 billion in Indian realty

Morgan Stanley Real Estate, the realty arm of global financial services firm

Morgan Stanley, has plans to invest \$1 billion in next 4-5 years in India, said Zain Fancy, executive director of Morgan Stanley Real Estate in Asia Pacific. The company, which recently invested around \$65 million in Delhi-based real estate firm Alpha G:Corp, has already invested about \$140 million in India, Fancy said.



Pharmaceuticals

Pharmaceuticals firms top DMF filings with FDA



According to the latest figures, Indian pharmaceuticals companies have filed the largest number of drug master filings (DMFs) with the US Food and Drug

Administration in the April-June 2006 quarter.

Indian pharmaceuticals companies filed 104 out of the 251 new DMFs made in the US in April-June 2006, compared with 74 out of 213 DMFs made a year ago.

DMFs are confidential, proprietary assets that present to the US FDA the formulae, processes, test methodology, and other data relevant to the manufacture of products used in the composition, packaging and processing of pharmaceuticals or biologics.

Indian, U.S. pharmacopoeia bodies agree to cooperate

The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) and the U.S. Pharmacopoeial Convention (USP) have signed a memorandum of understanding to promote greater awareness about quality and safety of medicines.

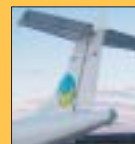
"Greater coordination and complementarity in the activities of the two pharmacopoeias would promote the interests of patients in both countries," said Prasanna Hota, chairman of IPC.

Roger L. Williams, head of USP, said greater collaborative work would help to "reach the overarching goal of providing 'Good Pharmaceutical Care for All'". USP's first site overseas was set last year in Hyderabad.

Aviation

Honeywell bags Air Deccan contract

Honeywell International has bagged the order to supply air safety equipment to Air Deccan. The \$28bn diversified technology and manufacturing company will provide Avionics and Auxiliary Power Units (APUs) for Air Deccan's 67-fleet aircraft. The selected Honeywell systems include the 131-9[A] APU and Full Avionic Suite that includes Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning System and collision avoidance systems.



Industrial production up over 9% in June

India's industrial production in June rose a higher-than-expected 9.6 percent from a year earlier. The annual rise, propelled by strong manufacturing, exceeded the median forecast in a *Reuters* survey for growth of 9 percent.

The data released on August 11 also suggested the pace of output was sustaining momentum, following annual rises of a revised 11.1 percent in May, 9.6 percent in April and 8.2 percent in March.

"I think we are doing well and last year's momentum is continuing," Manju Ghodke, an economist at Larsen and Toubro in Mumbai, said. "My concern is about the floods... there could be a temporary setback to output and exports." Heavy monsoon rains — vital for the health of the rural economy — have damaged crops, and hit business, especially in industrialised Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Indian federal bond yields were slightly higher on concerns that strong industrial growth may stoke inflationary pressures. The yield on the benchmark 10-year bond rose to 8.12 percent from 8.09, snapping a three-day fall.



Manufacturing, which represents more than 75 percent of industrial output, rose by 10.5 percent in June from a year earlier, compared with 11.3 percent in May, data released by the Central Statistical Organisation showed.

Consumer durables output in June was 19.9 percent, higher than a year earlier, while production of capital goods, a key barometer of industrial activity, rose 23.7 percent over a year earlier.

Separate data released earlier showed the wholesale price index, the most closely watched measure of inflation, rose 4.61 percent in the 12 months to July 29, lower than 4.67 percent a week earlier due to a decline in some food and metals prices.

India's factory output has been on a rising trend since a bumper monsoon in 2003 boosted farm production and spurred spending in rural areas, where about two-thirds of India's billion-plus population live.

According to Union government's estimates Asia's fourth-largest economy expanded by an impressive 8.4 percent in the fiscal year that ended on March 31.

FDI inflow in FY'07 Q1 up 47 per cent

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into India increased 47 percent to \$1.7 billion in April-June quarter this fiscal, compared to \$1.1 billion in the same period last fiscal. FDI inflows in June grew 102 percent to \$534 million, as against \$264 million in June last year, Commerce Minister Kamal Nath said. India's export during July increased 41 percent to \$10.2 billion, while total exports in April-July this fiscal rose by 34 percent to \$38 billion, he said. Imports in July increased 24 percent to \$14.1 billion, while cumulative imports in the first four months of this fiscal rose 29 percent to \$54.5 billion.

Ambitious NAIP program is launched by Sharad Pawar



Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar recently launched an ambitious six-year agricultural research programme — the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), which will focus on innovations in agricultural technology. The World Bank-assisted project would facilitate

an accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture so that it can support poverty alleviation and income generation. This would be achieved through collaborative development and application of agricultural innovations by the public organisations in partnership with farmers' groups and the private sector. Pawar described NAIP as a prestigious project with out-of-the box ideas that would help in making Indian agriculture a profitable venture.

PM's economic advisory council predicts 8% growth in GDP

The economy averaged growth of 8.1 percent in the past three fiscal years (2003-04 through 2005-06), driven largely by the acceleration in industry and services, barring in 2003-04 when agriculture, recovering from the severe drought in the previous year, had a role to play, according to the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of the Prime Minister. In an assessment of the economy and projections for the near future released recently, the EAC said the sub-sectors that were key drivers of growth were manufacturing, construction, communication, and financial & business services. The EAC believes the economy will grow at 7.9 percent during 2006-07, with agriculture growing at 1.5 percent, industry at 9.7 percent and services at 9.5 percent. The only "uncertainty in our short-term growth prospects arises mainly from the performance of the agriculture sector" — which is still largely dependent on rainfall, the EAC noted. "If the weather conditions... turn out to be adverse and growth in agriculture declines to 1 percent, the overall growth rate will drop to 7.8 percent. However, in the event of a good monsoon and agriculture growth of 2 percent, the overall growth could rise to 8 percent."

Core sector will need \$331 billion investment: CII study

The country's infrastructure sector will require investments of \$331 billion in the next five years and about \$67 billion of it will come from the private sector, says a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) study.

On the renewed thrust on infrastructure spend in the approach paper of the 11th Five-Year Plan brought out by the Planning Commission, the CII said the paper correctly recognises that investment in infrastructure needs to increase significantly.

The Plan approach paper calls for the investment to increase from the current 4.6 percent of GDP to between

7 percent and 8 percent in the 11th Plan period.

The 11th Plan approach paper calls for investment in infrastructure to increase from the current 4.6% of GDP to 7-8%.

The study states that the government has correctly identified public-private

partnership (PPP) as a cornerstone of its policy on infrastructure development. However, it states that obstacles still remain regarding the successful rollout of PPP projects across all states and across all sectors.

It highlights the need for evolving a road map between the government, the states and the private sector for drawing an overall investment plan in infrastructure.

An understanding of the total investment requirement, its break-up and also the time-frame, would enable the constituents — especially the private sector — to accept a target for bringing in its share of the total investment in infrastructure.

Fitch raises India's ratings to investment grade; outlook stable

Fitch Ratings has upgraded India's long-term foreign and local currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) to BBB minus from BB+ — indicating a stable outlook. The short-term foreign currency IDR was also raised to F3 from B and the Country Ceiling to BBB minus from BB+.

"This upgrade reflects Fitch's view that fiscal consolidation is at last taking hold in India, reinforced by the impressive growth story and India's strong external balance sheet. Public finances are still weak, but they are no longer an insuperable constraint," said Paul Rawkins, senior director in Fitch's sovereign team in London.

Fitch says that for the first time since it started rating India in March 2000, there appears to be near universal commitment at the Centre and the states to fiscal consolidation. This sea change in policy intent, coupled with a more discernable path of fiscal consolidation, has reduced the risk that India's weak public finances could impair its strong external financial position.

Bank deposits double



Banks have raised over \$21.4 billion in deposits since April 1 2006, which is more than twice the \$10.4 billion raised during the same period last

year. The rise has helped rebalance last year's lopsided growth which saw the unhealthy trend of loan growth outstripping fresh deposit mobilisation by a wide margin.

Coastal 'investment regions' to be set up for the petroleum sector

India proposes to launch petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals investment regions along the coastal belt. Five state governments — Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka and Maharashtra — are offering sites for developing the designated regions.

A Task Force was constituted to evolve a framework for setting up such regions. At a recent meeting, the Task Force has approved a draft policy. The draft would further need to be approved by the Cabinet.



July sees addition of 5.2 million new phone subscribers

Growth in the telephone subscriber base continued in July with 5.22 million new users being added. While mobile operators added 5.28 million new subscribers in July, fixed line subscribers declined by 0.06 million.



By July end, the total fixed line user base was at 47.36 million and the number of mobile users at 111.23 million, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The total telephony subscribers reached 158.59 million by July-end, compared to 153.37 million in June. Tele-density reached 14.4 at the end of July compared to 13.95 at the end of June.

In the mobile segment, 18.19 million new subscribers have been added during first four months of the current financial year compared to 7.62 million in the corresponding period of FY 2005-06. The addition in fixed line subscribers is only 0.58 million for the four months of FY 2006-07, compared to 1.26 million during the corresponding period in the previous year.

India powers the global online population growth, users up 7.8%

The total online population in India, measured in terms of people aged over 15 accessing the internet, rose 7.8 percent to 18.02 million in June, from 16.71 million three months ago, according to a survey done by U.S.-based technology research firm comScore Networks.

The growth in the country's online population outpaces the rise of 2.7 percent in the world's overall online audience size, which rose to 713 million in June, from 694 million in March this year.

India has also become the ninth-biggest country in terms of the total online population, up from its 10th position three months ago, while the



U.S. has retained the top slot with 153 million web users.

The number of Internet visitors rose less than 1 percent in the U.S., Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands, while U.K., France and Australia have actually registered a decline from the March 2006 levels.

The U.S. continued to have the highest online population across the world of 153 million, which accounted for 21 percent of the all worldwide unique visitors, while India accounted for 2.5 percent of the worldwide total.

China maintained its second position with 78.31 million online population followed by Japan and Germany with 53.10 million and 31.97 million respectively.

Premji in *Forbes* list of richest tech titans

Azim Premji, chairman of IT major Wipro, has made it to the list of the world's 10 Richest Tech Titans compiled by *Forbes* business magazine.

Premji has been placed at the sixth position, with a net worth of \$13.3 billion, ahead of Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page, eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and founder of German business software major SAP, Hasso Plattner.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates — who has been named as the world's richest man for 12 consecutive years — topped the list with a net worth of \$50 billion. Other IT giants the list features include Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen at No. 2 with a net worth of \$22 billion; Dell founder Michael Dell in the third slot with a net worth of \$17.1 billion; Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison at No. 4 with \$16 billion; and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer at No. 5 with an asset value of \$13.6 billion.

Premji is among the select few on the list who remain actively involved in the day-to-day operations of their companies. Even those staying put in their companies often pursue second lives outside the office, the magazine noted.

The net worth of the world's 10 richest technology billionaires taken collectively stands at \$174.2 billion, which is more than the gross domestic product of Israel.

Premji, a Stanford graduate, is India's second-richest man after L.N. Mittal. He took over Wipro after the death of his father in 1966 and holds 82 percent of the NYSE-listed Wipro, India's third-largest software exporter.



India has become key R&D centre, says Dell

India has become a strategic centre for research and development for Dell Corporation and products developed in the country are now being deployed globally, according to Susan E. Sheskey, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Dell.

Dell, a \$54 billion company, currently has R&D centers in Bangalore and Hyderabad, which together account for over 20 percent of the company's global R&D team, said Sheskey, on a visit to India in August.

Dell, whose e-commerce volume is more than Amazon, Google and eBay put together, has grown significantly in India over the last few years and now employs about 12,000 people. The company has several arms in India: Dell International Services (which provides customer support and employs about 9,500 people in four locations), Dell IT in Hyderabad and Bangalore and the Dell India Sales division.

Taking pride in the India development centres, Sheskey said the company's engineers had created the Integrated Dell Desktop, which provides a single-point interface for various operations Dell executives handle globally.

Online shopping set to boom: Study

E-commerce in India is set to jump 95 percent from Rs. 11.8 billion to Rs. 23 billion in 2006-07 on a whopping Rs. 2.18 billion advertisement-spend, a new survey says. This is largely because India's current 38.5 million Internet users will shoot up to 100 million by 2007-08, says the study by the Mumbai-based Internet and Mobile Association of India.

"Referrals by online shoppers work as they come from a trusted source. The consumer is more credible and trusted than the advertiser or marketer," says the survey, which covered 1,240 online shoppers. The survey found that 55 percent of visitors to e-commerce sites have adopted it as a shopping medium. Forty-six percent of the shoppers were in the 26-35 age group, 25 percent in the 18-25 bracket and 18 percent in the 35-46 category.

There is also a gender bias in cyberspace, the survey

found, as 85 percent of the shoppers are male.

Why do people shop online? Seventy percent of online shoppers like the "home delivery" aspect, 62 percent say its "time-saving", 60 percent like its 24x7 nature, 45 percent like the "ease of use" and 39 percent like product comparisons.

Some 38 percent of online shoppers find online promotions important while 53 percent believe that it is important to clearly state product availability. Sixty percent find that the variety of the offering is a criterion attracting them to online shopping.

Well over half — 61 percent — favoured the clarity in delivery schedules. Asked why they shop at a particular website, 62 percent said they went by the reputation of the portal, while 51 percent consider it a safe option of transaction.



Software services exports up 32.29%

Software and services exports, including IT enabled services (ITeS), are estimated to have reached Rs. 295 billion in the quarter ended June 2006, an increase of 32.29 percent compared with exports in the same period last year, according to data compiled by the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC).

As per the ESC's projection, computer software and services exports, including ITeS, will increase to Rs. 1,400 billion this fiscal, up by 33 percent over the previous year's figure of Rs. 1,050 billion.

"We expect the pace of growth to accelerate in the subsequent quarters since an increasing number of Indian IT companies are now focusing on value-added services," said ESC Executive Director D.K. Sareen.

In the case of computer hardware, the estimated export for the quarter April-June 2006 is Rs. 20 billion which, a 25 percent growth over the same period last fiscal. The ESC has projected exports worth Rs. 115 billion for 2006-07, of which 21.4 percent has already been achieved.

Narayana Murthy steps down as Infy chief



It was the proverbial end of an era as N.R.

Narayana Murthy, the iconic founder of Infosys, stepped down on August 20 after a quarter century of helping the Indian information technology bellwether.

Murthy, who turned 60, handed over the executive chairmanship of the \$2 billion firm to his long-time colleague Nandan Nilekani. But he remains non-executive chairman in which capacity he would continue to guide the fortunes of India's second largest software firm that has become synonymous with the country's rapid growth in this field.

126 graduates from U.S. join Infy Talent Program

Software giant Infosys Technologies has announced the arrival of 126 new graduates from universities across the U.S. as



the first batch of the Infosys Global Talent Program (GTP). The new recruits form the largest group of foreign nationals hired to work in India to date. They begin their six-month, customised education program at Infosys' Global Education Centre in Mysore.

The GTP, Infosys' university-level recruiting program outside of India, was created to enhance recruitment efforts to attract the best and brightest talent in the countries and communities in which Infosys operates.

"This is truly a momentous occasion for Infosys. The arrival of these American graduates marks the creation of a true global village at our Global Education Center in Mysore. We have trainees from all over the world that will begin their professional careers here with Infosys," said N.R. Narayana Murthy, chief mentor of Infosys.

"Infosys offered me the pretty unique opportunity to gain experience working in India where I can gather a better understanding of both globalisation and the company. This made the choice to work for Infosys a no-brainer. I can't think of a better way to begin my career," said Roland Tsao, who graduated from Rutgers University with degrees in economics and computer science.

BPOs on global acquisition spree, spend \$500 million

Attractive valuations and the promise of new clients are the reasons Indian information technology (IT) and business process outsourcing (BPO) companies are on a global acquisition spree. This year alone, these Indian firms have spent about \$500 million to acquire a dozen companies.

The most important reason for this trend is that acquisitions are coming cheap.

The valuations for overseas companies are attractive — averaging less than 1.5 times revenue multiples. Secondly, the acquisitions also help these firms widen their client base. More importantly, it gives them domain expertise in niche areas as well as access to new regions and an onshore presence.

The average revenue per employee of the acquired entity is much higher — over \$1,00,000 compared to about \$40,000 for Indian vendors. The acquisitions also give them a better chance to take on competition from multinational companies.

Says Sudip Nandy, chief strategy officer, Wipro Technologies: “Having made 4-5 acquisitions recently, we are much more comfortable in looking at some bigger buys.”

Adds Avinash Vashistha, chairman and CEO, Tholons, an IT advisory firm: “The acquisition boom is being fuelled by a desire to get clients, people, onsite presence and grow inorganically in the shortest time. This

will get bigger in the coming months.”

The most aggressive of the shoppers, Wipro Technologies, has bought four companies this year and is now evaluating over a dozen. Says Nandy: “With about 13,000 of our staff overseas we have the ecosystem to build onsite capabilities. Growing organically would have taken at least

2-3 years. At present our active funnel (companies that Wipro is evaluating for acquisition) is 10-15.”

The biggest recent acquisition was made by Bangalore-based Subex Systems, which bought U.K.-based

Azure Solutions for \$140 million. NIIT bought out the U.S.-based Element K, for \$40 million, at 0.5 times revenue multiple. And Sasken Tech bought out Finland-based Botnia Hightech for \$45m. Just last month, Genpact bought out U.S.-based MoneyLine, bolstering its mortgage servicing practice.

Says Vijay Thadani, chief executive officer of NIIT: “There is an intrinsic attractiveness for overseas buys. Valuations are attractive and acquisitions help build capabilities fast. This could be in terms of new customers, onsite presence, or domain expertise.”

Adds Vashistha, “Indian vendors will continue to make acquisitions in the next 12 months to meet numbers they are projecting. At the same time, multinationals will be looking at good India buys like the EDS buy of Mphasis this year.”



The most important reason for this trend is that acquisitions are coming cheap.

Indian IT companies move up value chain

IT companies in India are finally moving up the value chain. In the case of Infosys, for instance, the share of development and maintenance services in revenues has declined to 51 percent in the 12 months ending June, compared to nearly 55 percent two years back.

The revenue share of package implementation, on the other hand, has increased from 15 percent to 16 percent. TCS and Wipro, too, have seen a decline in the share of application, maintenance and development (AMD) services during FY '06, with systems integration, package implementation and product development garnering a larger portion of revenues. AMD services, however, continue to remain the bread and butter of IT companies in India.

According to IT companies, there is a growing need to introduce new services to further penetrate the global market.

In general, services that require specialised skills such as domain expertise and special application knowledge come under high-end services in the IT value chain. With increasing commoditisation of AMD activities, high end services have been able to attract better pricing and thereby better margins for the Indian software majors.

BPO giant WNS lists on the NY Stock Exchange

WNS Holdings has become the first Indian business process outsourcing (BPO) company to get listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) after it raised about \$224 million in an initial public offering at \$20 per ADS.

Despite weaker U.S. market, WNS Holdings rose in early trade on August 15 with two million shares being traded, and touched a price of \$21.25.

The company has issued fresh capital and its two main investors — Warburg Pincus and British Airways — have also offloaded their stakes in the company. After the IPO, private equity fund Warburg Pincus' stake in WNS will drop to 53.6 percent from 64.7 percent, while British Airways stake will come down from 14.61 percent to 1.94 percent.

British Airways started WNS in 1996 as a captive unit in Mumbai. Private equity firm Warburg Pincus acquired majority stake from British Airways and WNS expanded its services to other customers.

WNS Holdings is the parent holding company of WNS Global Services, which has operations in Mumbai, Nashik, Pune and Gurgaon. The company employs over 10,000 people.

Anand Satyanand is new NZ Governor General

AMID trumpets and a 21-gun salute, Anand Satyanand, a person of Indian origin, was on August 23 sworn in on the steps of Parliament as New Zealand's new governor general.



Satyanand, 62, has thus become New Zealand's first governor general of Asian descent. He quoted Mahatma Gandhi in his speech to illustrate New Zealand's rapidly diversifying culture. The ceremony took place in the presence of Prime Minister Helen Clark, Chief Justice Sian Elias, MPs, as well as dignitaries from the judiciary, diplomatic and defence forces. Acknowledging New Zealand's multi-cultural society, he started his speech with the line: "Tena koutou katoa, kia orana, fakalofa lahi atu, ni sambula vinaka, malo elelei, talofa lava, ni hao, namaste, namashkar, sat sri akaal, greetings to everyone."

Indian American wins global digital literacy champion award

An Indian American pioneer in digital education has won the 2006 Champions of Digital Literacy Inspiration Award for making the most contributions globally to bridging the digital divide.

Appu Kuttan, chairman, CyberLearning, a global non-profit leader in digital education, was presented the award by David Saedi, CEO, Certiport, at a ceremony at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on August 5.

Kuttan was chosen for the Inspiration Award from 13 Champions of Digital Literacy award recipients. They included education, government, corporate and non-profit leaders from China, Japan, Greece,

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and the U.S.

CyberLearning has trained over a million disadvantaged people in digital literacy and IT skills. Its programmes have been implemented in the U.S., India, Jordan and Egypt, among others.



Kuttan's contribution to digital and education spans 20 years from advising late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on making India an IT power, to helping Mauritian Prime Minister N. Ramgoolam transform Mauritius into an IT-focused nation.

Kathuria's firm to build space launch facility



PlanetSpace, a U.S.-Canadian consortium co-promoted by Indian American entrepreneur Chirinjeev Kathuria, has signed an agreement with Canada's Nova Scotia province to build a space launching facility.

According to the agreement, Nova Scotia would set aside 300 acres of land on Cape Breton island off the Canadian coast for the facility. "The facility will see orbital flights, similar to the Kennedy Space Center," Kathuria told the *Toronto Star*.

Rockets launched from Cape Breton, which is at the same latitude as the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, the site of Russia's Soyuz launches, would require less fuel to reach the International Space Station (ISS) than those launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida, U.S., according to a report in the *New Scientist*.

PlanetSpace expects to fly 2,000 space tourists in the first five years and generate revenue of \$200 million in the fifth year.

New bank in Michigan

A new bank to be launched in Michigan in December will have an Indian American as its head. The City Central Bank, to come up at Novi, a small township in the state's Oakland County, is a result of the efforts of Satish Jasti and a group of 20 investors, 19 of them South Asians. The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp recently gave their approval to organise a new Michigan state bank. "There is no South Asian Indian-owned bank in Michigan," Jasti, 47, said. "We have the advantage of being first in the market."

in PARLIAMENT

- As many as 65 complaints have been received this year against registered recruitment agents who are involved in recruiting Indian workers abroad, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi told the Lok Sabha.
- Of these 65 agents, registration certificates of 25 have been suspended while 11 have been cancelled.
- There are at present 1,515 recruiting agents with valid registration involved in recruiting skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Indian workers for jobs abroad.
- Maharashtra leads the list with 567 such agents, followed by Delhi (271), Kerala and Tamil Nadu (174 each).
- Apart from those against registered agents, 61 complaints have been received against unregistered agents this year and three against foreign employers, the minister said.
- Such complaints broadly relate to non-payment, reduced or delayed payment of salaries, non-deployment on promised jobs, poor working and living conditions and denial of appropriate medical facilities.
- Overseas Indian workers are estimated four to five million, he said. During 2005, about 549,000 workers went abroad on emigration clearance.

Brain GAIN

Thanks to better career opportunities, a booming economy and improved lifestyle options, a growing number of generation-next of overseas Indians are packing their bags and heading back to the country in what has become a trend over the past few years.

With most *Fortune* 500 companies having established their presence in India, the same set of Indian professionals who left the country in the past decade or two for better career paths overseas are getting increasingly attracted to India.

"The cutting-edge research, our growing intellectual property and the potential for entrepreneurship is also drawing many young people back," says Kiran Karnik, president, National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).

"These factors have also made India an attractive destination for foreigners, many of whom come to India because a stint here 'looks good' on their resumes," adds Karnik, who is at the helm of India's software industry lobby.

According to Nasscom, India's information technology (IT) sector alone has drawn some 35,000 expatriates back between 2001 and now, and the trend has been growing each year.

"I basically went to the U.S. because of entrepreneurship opportunities there and technological advances," says Venky Rao, vice president with Satyam Computers' Leadership Centre

'The cutting-edge research, our growing intellectual property and the potential for entrepreneurship are also drawing many young people back.'

— Kiran Karnik



in Hyderabad, who has returned after a 10-year stint. "But today I find India very encouraging. I am glad to be part of probably the 'transition time' in Indian development history," adds Rao, who plans to join a local flying

club soon -- something he could "never think of 10-15 years back".

He says metropolitan India today is no way different from any other big city of the world and the growth of India's IT industry has given the country the power to hire international professionals like never before.

"We receive approximately 100 applications a month from non-resident Indians who live abroad and want to come back," says Nirupama V.G., associate director with the Bangalore-based Teamlease, a leading headhunting firm in the city.

"With India providing challenging opportunities that are as good, if not better, than in any other country, this growing trend of reverse brain drain is hardly surprising," she says, adding that salaries have also become attractive in India.

Chicago-based Sam Pitroda, who is chairman of the Knowledge Commission set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and was responsible for India's telecommunications revolution in the late 1980s and early 1990s, agrees.

"Young Indians who came to the U.S. to study and worked here now realise the scope of personal and professional growth that India holds. When we left in the 1960s, India was a great place to live for the upper classes alone," he says.

"The middle class explosion has relatively bridged the huge divide between the urban and the rural. So, for these

young Indians, home is now a very different place than it was even as recent as five years ago.”

“Going home is a real option now,” Pitroda — who also chairs the Indian American Council that was set up in 2004 to enhance the engagement between India and the U.S. — said in an interview.

Hewitt Associates, the global human resources consultancy firm, estimates that Indians received the highest pay hikes in 2005 — especially in the IT industry — compared with professionals in other countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

Anand Ganapathy, 33, who now works in Bangalore with Infosys Technologies, says he came back to India from the U.S. since he thought his child would learn Indian culture and values better if he went to an Indian school.

“India will give my kid a more stable life. As for me, staying in India today is no more different from any other — be it the U.S. or Europe,” adds Ganapathy, who had left for the U.S. after obtaining an engineering degree from Mysore University.

Expatriates also feel that lifestyle options in India have expanded manifold and many international brands have set up shop in the country. As a result, the urge for such lifestyle products that drew Indians overseas is also diminishing.

“The quality of life and the easy availability of global products in India today have added to the attractiveness,” says Karnik, pointing out that India is now home to sprawling malls as also upmarket global brands.

“I must confess my wife finds that the same brands she was used to in the U.S. are now available in India as well — and, mind you, you don’t have to go to the grey market for that,” says Ganapathy.

“India is also a shoppers’ paradise today. So we have the going good at both the professional and personal levels. It is very satisfying.”

In fact, such is the trend that some new neighbourhoods in and around cities like New Delhi, Bangalore and

Chennai are named “Non-Resident Indian” colonies — like the Omace Developer’s NRI Green City on the outskirts of the Indian capital.

In Bangalore there is also an alliance for such “returned” expatriates — RNRI Association — which estimates that 35,000-40,000 Indians who once made their homes in countries like the U.S. and Britain have since returned to the city.

Similarly, in the upmarket DLF Golf and Country Club at Gurgaon in Haryana, just outside New Delhi, NRIs dominate the membership. “Ninety percent of the clients at our gym are NRIs,” says Umrao Singh, the

club’s sports in-charge. “They feel the facilities in India are of the same standards as they were used to in the U.S. or Britain.”

According to Sangeeta Sabharwal, chief of Ma Foi, an international recruitment agency, the fact that the Indian economy has been growing at over 7 percent in the past few years has contributed much to the psyche of the international professional. “So this economic boom — combined with the demand from Indian firms for skill sets with global experience, the multicultural environment and the emergence of new industries like retailing — are drawing Indians back.”

INTERNSHIPS IN INDIA

Here is a selection of internships available for U.S. students in India, as per information available on the Internet. Interested persons are advised to ascertain the quality of the internships and credibility of the organisation before pursuing such internships. A comprehensive list can be found at www.internabroad.com/india.cfm

- In-Step is the internship program of Infosys Technologies. As many as 100 openings were available in 2005. The internships are in Bangalore. For details, visit: www.infosys.com/instepweb/index.htm
- Intel India’s internship program offers students a chance to gain quality career experience as full-time members of the Intel team. Number of internships varies every year. For details, visit: www.intel.com/jobs/india/students/internships.htm
- Paid internships of five to eight weeks at the Art Colony near Chennai. Internships in art, fine arts, museum studies and other areas. For details, visit: <http://www.eliabroad.org>
- Medical Internships in Madurai and Chennai. Work in a local free clinic or in a modern, state-of-the-art hospital. For details, visit: www.eliabroad.org
- Film internship in Bangalore. Opportunity for graduates with film experience to be part of production company Frame of Mind. For details, visit: www.i-to-i.com/ProjectBooking.aspx?mid=3281&tabind... i-to-i
- International Volunteer Opportunity in Kolkata, to participate in different welfare activities for the underprivileged children and women. For details, visit: www.crawlsociety.org/
- Volunteer or Intern in any of the following fields: community development, environment, health, human rights, micro-enterprise, youth and education and women’s empowerment in Udaipur. For details, visit: www.fsdinternational.org
- Business internship in Bangalore, a program that features a rich hybrid of business internship, study abroad, regional travel and career networking. For details, visit: www.IndiaInternships.com

In Lord Krishna's land, IVF produces a goat



Kid goat Krishna

Indian scientists have been successful in genetically engineering goats, holding out the promise of the animals being reared in the country for their high milk yield and high quality meat to boost farmers' incomes.

A kid goat, Krishna, was born at the Central Institute for Research on Goats (CIRG), Mathura, on August 17, a day after Janmashtami was celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Krishna in the Uttar Pradesh town considered his birthplace.

The four scientists involved in the project took three years to achieve success in impregnating a non-descript breed goat with an ovum of a goat taken from an Agra abattoir and fertilised with the sperm of a Sirohi buck.

"Our effort was a success as the kid is brown in colour, showing that it has inherited the Sirohi characteristics and not its foster mother's. The foster mother is black and white in colour," said S.K. Jindal, principal scientist at CIRG.

"Our aim through IVF is to conserve the germ-plasma of good breeds of goats and sheep and go in for

genetic engineering of goats for multiple births," said CIRG director N.P. Singh.

The CIRG team of scientists, including scientist-reproduction S.D. Kharche and senior scientist-reproduction A.K. Goel, are hopeful that their test-tube kid — weighing a healthy 3.15 kg — will survive.

"We are trying to perfect the IVF technique. Our first success is definitely a step forward, but we need to do more work before we go in for genetic engineering for improvement and conservation of better breeds of goats and sheep," said Jindal.

ICAR develops bird flu vaccine

In a significant research breakthrough, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) successfully developed a vaccine against the bird flu disease. This was announced by Union Minister of Agriculture Sharad Pawar at the 77th Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society.

The country had witnessed outbreak of Bird Flu, known as Avian Influenza, in February this year, affecting the poultry industry. Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General of ICAR, called it a big step forward in tackling the disease. "Viral disease such as Avian Influenza does not recognise boundaries and the development of an indigenous vaccine would go a

long way in tackling bird flu effectively. Since the disease has got recurring possibility, further research would focus on developing another type of vaccine," Dr. Rai said.



IMTECH, U.S. firm sign pact

The Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh, and Nostrum Pharma Inc. of the U.S. signed a Technology Licensing Agreement, enabling Nostrum to carry out clinical development and commercialisation of a novel clot busting therapeutic protein. The agreement gives worldwide licensing rights to Nostrum. The protein — Clot Specific Streptokinase (CSSK) — combats the blood thinning associated with Streptokinase which can cause severe bleeding and even death. IMTECH has obtained a European patent for this molecule.

India plans mission to promote bio-fuel crops: Pawar

India will soon launch a special mission to promote cultivation of non-edible oilseed crops as well as other crops for production of bio-fuel, Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar has said. "This mission would comprise 14 Central ministries involved in the promotion of bio-fuels and state governments," Pawar said. Bio-fuels are seen as a means of reducing dependence on hydro-carbon fuels.



Space centre's motor test successful

As part of India's advanced technology initiative in the area of air-breathing propulsion, the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram successfully tested a new motor for the Dual Mode Ramjet (DMRJ) demonstration. VSSC is a unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation. "This is a new motor with a 560 mm diameter. It is 3.5 m long and uses a propellant of 940 kg and burns for 17 seconds. The test went well," a top VSSC official said.

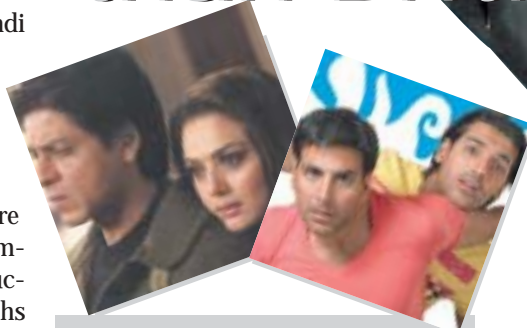


Bollywood more successful in U.K. than British films

Bollywood, as the Hindi film industry is popularly known, is more successful in Britain than home-grown productions.

As many as 74 Indian films were released in the U.K. in 2005, compared with just 61 British productions. In the last 12 months (September 2005 to August 2006), nine Bollywood films entered the top 10 list of films compared to just seven British movies, according to *The Telegraph* newspaper of London.

Even as Karan Johar's 'Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna' creates waves in Britain, the report noted that the biggest recent grossers were the comedy 'Garam Masala', which took £292,033 in its opening weekend, the sci-fi movie 'Krrish', which made £210,499 during the same period, and 'Dosti', which entered the U.K. box office chart at number five after grossing £146,069 in its opening weekend.



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- Biggest grossers were 'Fanaa', 'Garam Masala', 'Krrish', and 'Dosti'.

Each of the three films have now grossed around £1 million. Almost one in six of all films released in Britain last year (16 percent) were in Hindi while Bollywood produced 11 of the 20 most successful foreign-language films released in the U.K. in 2005, the *Telegraph* reported.

The unprecedented level of

commercial success has been fuelled by a new generation of young British Asians whose appetite for Indian films means that three of Britain's biggest cinema chains, Cineworld, Vue and UCI, now routinely screen Hindi language films.

Bobby Bedi, the Bollywood producer behind cinema successes including 'The Rising' and 'Bandit Queen', was quoted as saying that the Bollywood films, all of which were subtitled, had developed a far broader appeal than just the Indian community.

Venture funds for movies



Venture funds are now eyeing

Indian films, with Chennai-based Pyramid Saimira Theatre leading the way with a \$150 million fund to produce and distribute of regional and Bollywood movies. Souther superstar Kamal Hasan's multi-lingual production, 'Dasavatham' — where the actor appears in 10 roles — will be Pyramid's maiden venture.

Penelope Cruz's directorial debut to be shot in India

Hollywood star Penelope Cruz's first film as director will be shot extensively in India. The film, based on the book 'India Passion' by Javier Moro, is being made into a big budget Hollywood movie tentatively titled the 'Princess of Kapurthala' — and much of the shooting would be the congested bylanes of Old Delhi and in the magnificent palaces of Kapurthala in Punjab.

'India Passion' documents the true story of a 17-year-old Spanish Flamenco dancer, Anita Delgado, who created a stir when she agreed to marry an Indian king in 1908.

Cruz, who has bought the rights of the book, will herself play the part of Delgado, while the rest of the Indian star-cast is to be finalised during her visit to the country in January to scout for locations.



Moro, author Dominique Lapiere's nephew, first wrote the novel in Spanish. It soon became a best-seller, selling 500,000 copies in Europe. The translated English version of the book was published by Delhi-based Full Circle and launched in India on August 8.

The Spanish actress is expected to choose Kapurthala's Sainik School, better known as the Jagatjit Palace, named after the erstwhile maharaja of Kapurthala Jagatjit Singh, as the prime location for the film's shooting. Known for its architectural splendour, the palace, spread over 200 acres and resembling the Palace of Versailles, was designed by French architect M. Marcel. Other sites could include Kapurthala's Shalimar Gardens, the district court buildings, the Moorish Mosque, and the Panch Mandir.

our Teacher

By Masti Venkatesh Iyengar
Translated by Ramachandra Sharma

Our Teacher by Masti Venkatesh Iyengar translated from Kannada by Ramachandra Sharma was first published in Masti Fictions in 1995 by Katha, a registered, nonprofit society devoted to enhancing the pleasures of reading. www.katha.org



It was Thursday. I was late for school. Lakshmi was running behind me on her little feet. We saw our Teacher ahead. “So, Venkataramaniah, on your way to school?” Shastri, coming in the opposite direction, asked.

“Yes Swami. Do you have a pinch of snuff?” Teacher asked.

“Here. Aren’t you late?”

“What can I say, Swami? My wife said there was no salt. I was late for school, so I told her I couldn’t get it. Perhaps it would have been better if I had gone out and bought the salt. I would have reached the school by now. Problems, Swami, problems ...”

Since Teacher was standing there

talking, Lakshmi and I sat down to play Guchamma Nakshatra. We were so engrossed in our game that we did not notice our Teacher had gone. I got up quickly saying, “Lakshmi, let’s go. Teacher will be angry.”

But Lakshmi just sat there crying, because she had lost all her *balapa* sticks to me. I had not cheated. She lost them because she did not know how to play. I tried to reason with her. But she had no sense of fair play. Fed up with her crying, I gave back all the pieces I had won. But she continued to wail. I told her I had given all her pieces back. “You have some in your pocket,” she said. “Those are mine,” I protested. It was no use. I handed her

all my pieces. I had won the game but she had won the chalk pieces!

By the time we reached the school, Teacher had already started the lesson. Lakshmi and I slipped in unnoticed.

After he had finished, he asked, “Why haven’t Gowramma and Sitamma come yet?”

“I came long ago, Teacher,” I said.

“Good girl. The Inspector is going to visit the school any day now, so all of you should come on time and study properly. This is a new Inspector. Saraswathamma, you must study hard, like Gowramma.”

“Let her study all she wants. I don’t have a squint,” Saraswathi said.

Everyone laughed. Lakshmi clapped

her hands and giggled. Teacher wanted to laugh, but he controlled himself and scolded, "Cheh! You shouldn't say such things."

Saraswathi made fun of Gowri's squint. Saraswathi was vain. It seems girls are like that. They think that a straight nose and proper eyes are all they need. Their only desire is to please men. But even men are like that. A man who has passed his BA may be one eyed, or dark, or ugly. Yet he believes that all women admire him because he has a degree. Men do not realise that good looks do not come with education. Women do not know that you cannot pass an exam by beauty alone. Saraswathi thought that beauty was everything. After all, she had been praised by the Inspector the previous year, even though she had not learnt the lesson.

That was the day Gowri and Saraswathi fell out. The Inspector had asked the class what a river was. Saraswathi did not know. The Inspector turned to Gowamma, and she repeated, word for word, what was written in the geography book. Gowri was a good student. The Inspector then asked, "How is a river formed?" Gowri did not know. It was Saraswathi's turn. She replied, "The water that falls here and there, joins together to form a river." "Shabash!" the Inspector exclaimed. He turned to Teacher and complimented him. Teacher had actually coached Gowri. The Inspector had meant Saraswathi. Poor Teacher. He said, "I have indeed worked very hard, mahaswami. You can ask her anything."

The Inspector realised that Teacher was talking about Gowri. "This girl? Yes. She has studied well, I know." Then, turning to Saraswathi, he asked, "What is your name, amma?"

"Saraswathibai."

"I was talking about Saraswathibai," said the Inspector.

"My ribcage has gone dry teaching her," Teacher moaned.

It was the truth. Teacher was exhausted from trying to teach Saraswathi. And she had managed to get a *shabashgiri* for saying something

he had not taught her. Gowri was upset. From that day onwards the two girls were no longer friends.

But to return to that Thursday. After telling them not to say such rude things, Teacher assigned some work to the students. Every now and then someone in the class would remember what Saraswathi had said and start giggling. They munched the *chakkali*, *mucchore* and *avalakki* they had brought, and you could hear the *kutumkutum* and *gurumgurum* sounds. They were busy doing every-



Saraswathi made fun of Gowri's squint. Saraswathi was vain. It seems girls are like that. They think that a straight nose and proper eyes are all they need.

thing but the work. No one else had much interest in studying except Gowri.

I was trying to persuade Lakshmi to give my *balapas* back when a woman walked into the classroom. As soon as Teacher saw her, he started to say something. But his wife said, "I told you that there was no salt in the house, yet you went straight to school. What do you expect me to do?"

"You came here just for that?" Teacher asked.

"Whenever I ask for something, you take refuge in the school. From now on, I will come here and ask for things we don't have in the house. I can't stand this anymore."

"Couldn't you have borrowed some from the neighbours? If someone were

to see you, what would happen to my reputation?"

"What about the self-respect that I lose everyday? I'm fed up of having to borrow things. I am not going to ask anyone for anything any more. If you don't have any money, say so. We'll eat without salt. Don't give me the excuse that you are late for school and run away."

In the meanwhile, Lakshmi had spotted Garudamari on the street. Garudamari was a little kitten. Lakshmi had given it this name, because it was so pretty. Some parts of it were off-white, and the rest, pure white, with a few black patches. Its mouth was red like a ripe papaya and the eyes were yellow, like topaz. Its paws — only those who had been scratched, knew how sharp those nails were. That was our Garudamari.

Lakshmi ran after the kitten and brought it back. I do not know what else Teacher and his wife talked about. Suddenly we heard our teacher asking us to go back to our places. There was fear in his voice. Quickly we sat down — the kitten on Lakshmi's lap — and picked up our books.

When we looked up, we saw an elderly gentleman at the door, surveying us all with an air of absolute authority. He looked at our teacher and asked, "Are you the teacher here?"

It was the Inspector. Only Inspectors talk to teachers in that tone.

Teacher knew that it was the Inspector. "Yes, mahaswami," he replied.

Our teacher knew the *shastras* and the Vedas. His heart was free from malice. He could not bear to see anyone suffering. That was why he often had no money for salt. Once he saw a cobra approaching a group of children who were playing on the street. He knew the strictures against killing a cobra. He knew that if it attacked him, he was sure to die. But he put his fears aside and killed it. Then he took out his snuffbox and placed a big sized pinch of snuff on the cobra's head. There is a belief that a snake catcher puts a pinch of snuff in a snake's mouth when he catches it. The snuff makes the snake

giddy. Then he pulls out its fangs. Teacher had the same intention, perhaps. He did not seem to realise that a snake which was motionless enough to accept a pinch of snuff from him, would not know its taste either.

But even this courageous soul was terrified of two things. One was his wife. The other was the Inspector. When the latter thundered, "Put on your turban," In his haste, he put the turban on back to front. His face dripped with perspiration. I felt sorry for him, even though his appearance made me want to laugh.

The Inspector looked at Teacher, "Put your turban on the right way," he said sternly.

"Mahaswami!" said Teacher, rearranging it. The Inspector was furious. Not one girl in the class had learnt her lessons. Teacher was afraid he would lose his job if the Inspector began to ask the girls any questions. Moreover, his wife was sitting in the classroom. Teacher's mind was in turmoil.

The Inspector looked at the teacher's wife. "Who is that? A teacher?"

"Mahaswami?"

Who knows what the Inspector would have said. For just then, Teacher's wife said, "No, mahaswami." "Is she a pupil?" the Inspector asked.

"Mahaswami," said Teacher.

"Yes," his wife replied.

The Inspector looked at Teacher. "You certainly have caught hold of a mature one, haven't you?"

"Mahaswami."

"What class are you in?" the Inspector asked her.

There was anger on her face. She walked to the door muttering, "A mature one, is it? Who is he then, a tender lemon?"

Watching her leave the room, the Inspector turned to our teacher. "What's this, ayya? What class is she in?" "Mahaswami."

The Inspector was annoyed. "What's the matter with you? All you do is repeat mahaswami, mahaswami."

"Mahaswami," Teacher said, once again. "Was she annoyed?"

"Maybe, mahaswami."

The best singer in the class was Lakshmi. Teacher turned to her and said, "Come on, Lakshmi. Let's have the one on King George."

"Yes. It was not right for me to call her a mature one," the Inspector said. Then he added, "Shall we get on with the inspection?"

"You must be exhausted after your journey, mahaswami. Why don't we have the inspection tomorrow?"

"All right. Let's have a song then."

The best singer in the class was Lakshmi. Teacher turned to her and said, "Come on, Lakshmi. Let's have the one on King George."

Lakshmi stood up. The kitten was still sleeping on her lap. The Inspector went up to her. As Lakshmi started to sing, the kitten woke up, and started to fidget. The Inspector's eye fell on the moving folds of her dress. "What's that?" he asked.

Lakshmi did not know what to say.

"Your baby?" asked the Inspector, who could have had a grandchild as old as Lakshmi. He put his hand out. The kitten was angry. When the Inspector's hand reached for it, it attacked!

Pulling his hand back, he shouted, "What kind of a school is this? That girl walks out in anger, this one brings a kitten with her. What is going on?"

There was helplessness in the teacher's reply. "Mahaswami, only God knows what I go through. If I have stayed on as a teacher, it is because I do not want to be disloyal to the hand, like yours, that feeds me. My ribcage has gone dry trying to teach in this school."

"Tell me, what is your salary?"

"Ten rupees for a month's hard work, mahaswami."

"Don't worry. I'll write today itself and recommend that your salary should be increased to twelve rupees a month."

That was the end of school for the

day. Three days ago Teacher visited us. When I said goodbye to him after my marriage, he had said, "I shall visit you one day. Think of us sometimes."

And he had come to visit. He wanted me to talk to my husband about getting him a promotion. Thanks to my husband, Teacher was promoted. This visit was to thank us.

He said to me, "She is not there now, Sitamma, to benefit from your help."


"What happened, Teacher?" I asked.

"Ammayya, she died," he said. There were tears in his eyes, "If she were here today, I would have bought her a new sari. She would have been thrilled. I wasn't fortunate enough to do such a thing."

I was too moved to say anything. He continued, "Her love for me was boundless, Sitamma. She held my feet that day and said, It's time for me to go. Don't hold any anger against me. I put you to trouble many times. I told her, You gave me no trouble but I didn't give you any happiness. She said, I was happy but I didn't realize it. Now that the time has come for us to part, I know it. Her love was the life giving kind, Sitamma. I know her speech was rather rough. But she had a heart like butter. Do you remember the day the Inspector came? I went home and told her that the Inspector had decided to recommend me for a promotion. She said, Maybe it is because he thought I was a pupil and realized how difficult it must be to teach someone like me. You better tell him the truth. I told her that the Inspector was probably afraid that someone would find out that he had called her a mature one. She said, tell him the reason for my coming to school, that I am not a pupil.

"Sitamma, I told the Inspector the truth. He laughed and said, I recommended a salary of twelve rupees a month because I thought she was a pupil. Had I known that she was your wife, I would have raised it to fifteen. So that was your wife. Ayyo! ... Poor fellow, what did he know?"

Teacher was silent for a while, thinking ...

Is there anyone who knows everything about another's life? 

India's climactic and geographic diversity makes it home of over 350 mammals and 1,200 bird species, many of which are unique to the subcontinent. India is considered to be the land of tiger and the elephant, the peacock and the rhinoceros. The country's wildlife is a sheer delight for the nature lover.

CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

Located in Uttaranchal, at the foothills of the Himalayas, is the majestic Corbett National Park. Home to a variety of flora and fauna, it is famous for its wild population of tigers, leopards and elephants. Corbett national park was established in 1936, and is India's first national park and the first sanctuary to come under Project Tiger.

WILDLIFE VIEWING: Chital, sambhar, and various other deer species find refuge in the savannah grasslands known as the maidan, behind the campsite to the south, and tigers are occasionally drawn in looking for prey. Tiger-sightings are a matter of luck, but you may be rewarded with fresh pug marks.

BEST TIME TO VISIT — November to June.

RANTHAMBORE

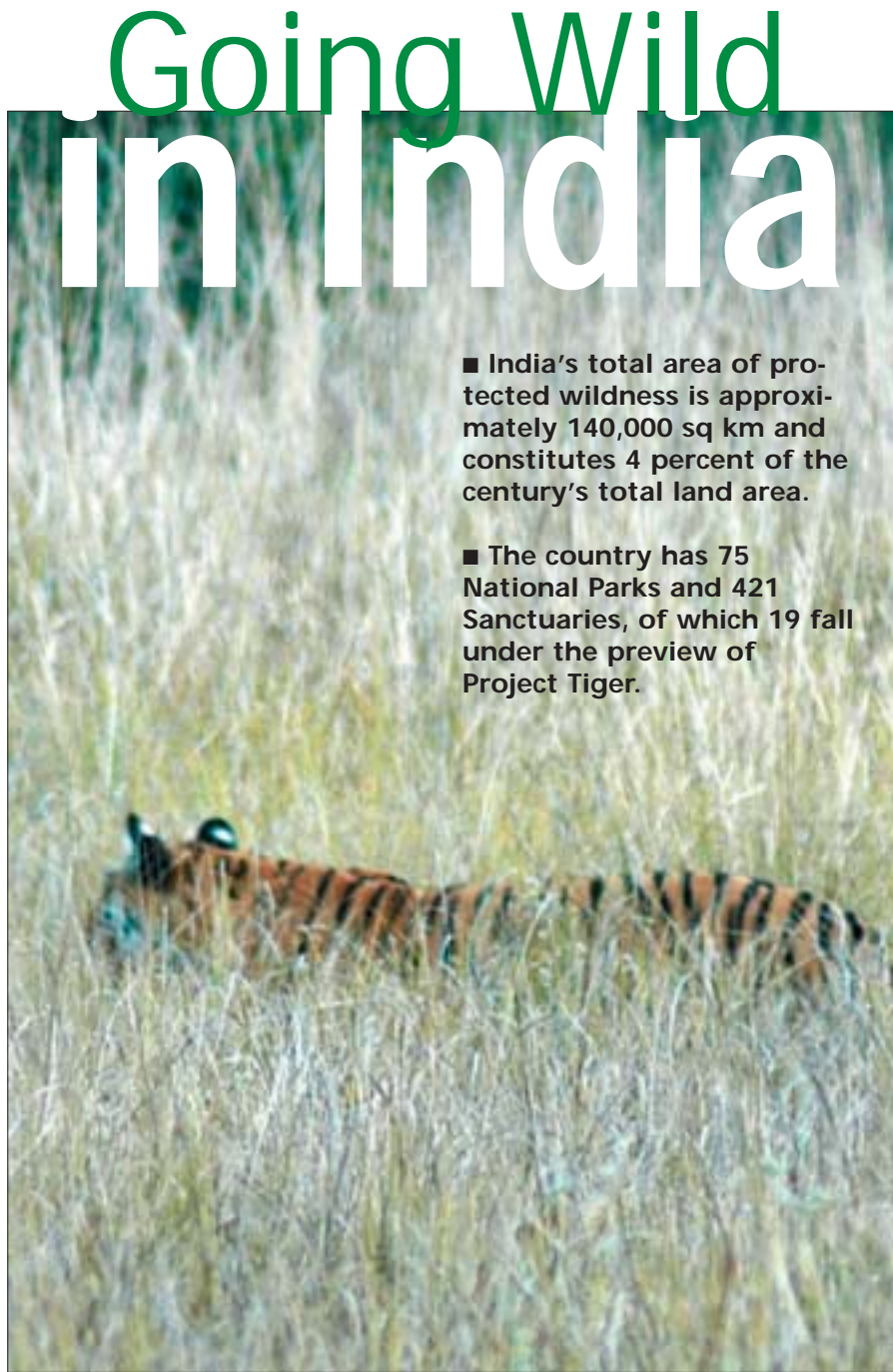
Situated in Eastern Rajasthan, where the Aravali hill ranges and the Vindhyan plateau meet, the Ranthambore National Park was once the hunting preserve of the maharajas of Jaipur. The rivers Chambal in the south and Banas in the north mark out the park.

WILDLIFE VIEWING: Apart from tigers one also finds a large numbers of sambhar, chital, nilgai, gazelle, boars, mongoose, Indian hare, monitor lizards and a large number of birds.

BEST TIME TO VISIT — Months of October-March and April to June.

MANAS NATIONAL PARK

Manas National Park is situated on the foothills of the Himalayas and a part of it extends into Bhutan. It was declared a sanctuary on October 1, 1928, and was designated a World Heritage Site in December 1985.



■ India's total area of protected wildness is approximately 140,000 sq km and constitutes 4 percent of the century's total land area.

■ The country has 75 National Parks and 421 Sanctuaries, of which 19 fall under the preview of Project Tiger.

WILDLIFE VIEWING: The sanctuary is home to the Indian one-horned rhinoceros. The sanctuary is also home to tiger, golden langur, wild buffalo, hispid hare, pygmy hog, capped langur.

BEST TIME TO VISIT — November to April.

BANDHAVGARH

Situated in the state of Madhya Pradesh, the thick forest of

Bandhavgarh National Park sits in a bowl encircled by cliffs and wooded Vindhyan mountains.

WILDLIFE VIEWING: This is where the famous white tigers of Rewa were discovered. Also seen are nilgai, chousingha, chital, chinkara, boar, foxes, jackals, the jungle cat, hyena, porcupine, and the black-faced langur.

BEST TIME TO VISIT — Mid-November to June.

■ Independence Day Celebrations



College students of Jammu and Kashmir performing a dance during the official celebrations of India's 60th Independence Day at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar on August 15.

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