

# India Review

■ Vol. 5 Issue 5

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



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting U.S. President Obama on the sidelines of G-20 Summit, in London, on April 2.  
(INSET) India's new Ambassador to the United States Ms. Meera Shankar.

## Prime Minister Manmohan Singh meets President Obama at G-20 Summit

■ India could grow 8 percent-plus once global economy is back on track, says RBI Deputy Governor

■ Sebi permits foreign institutional investors to invest in Indian Depository Receipts

■ Foreign Direct Investment flow to India will remain robust, says global investment firm Goldman Sachs

# Prime Minister meets President Obama

**I**ndia and the U.S. agreed to step up cooperation in countering terrorism emanating from India's neighborhood after a meeting in London on April 2 between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Barack Obama. Both leaders spoke strongly about the need for such action after their first ever meeting on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G-20) Summit in London.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister expressed hope that under President Obama's "distinguished and visionary leadership, India's relationship with United States would grow from strength to strength". The Prime Minister said: "Under your distinguished leadership, we are going to chart out a new path of collaboration in diverse fields — in economics, in dealing with the challenges of climate change, in dealing with the challenges of energy security, in dealing with the challenges of terror and making this world secure from the menace of terror, to work together in bilateral fora, and to work together in multilateral fora." The Prime Minister said that his meeting with President Obama was "marked by exceptional warmth and cordiality".

The two leaders "discussed several positive and constructive steps to take the India-U.S. global partnership forward". Dr. Singh added: "We discussed regional and global issues, including the threat that terrorism emanating from our neighborhood poses to all free societies, and the international efforts that are required to deal with this problem.

"We both agreed that our two countries must work together to counter the forces of terror," Dr. Singh said. "We have a global strategic partnership with the United States. We both have agreed that there are enormous opportunities to strengthen this relationship and to make it more productive and durable."

Describing his meeting with President Obama as "useful and pro-



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and U.S. President Obama on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in London on April 2.

ductive", the Prime Minister said that they also discussed other bilateral, regional and global issues such as energy security and climate change.

Talking about his meeting with Dr. Singh, President Obama, in his remarks to the media, said: "We did discuss the issue of terrorism — we discussed it not simply in terms of terrorism emanating from Pakistan, although obviously we are very concerned about extremists and terrorists who have made camp in the border regions of Pakistan, as well as in Afghanistan. But we spoke about it more cooperatively, in terms of how we can coordinate effectively on issues of counter terrorism."

President Obama, in a detailed account of the discussions on climate change, offered to collaborate with India in its efforts to tackle climate change. "We're going to have to combine the lower-hanging fruit of energy

efficiency with rapid technological advances — to the extent that in some case, we can forge international cooperation and pool our scientific and technical knowledge around things like developing coal sequestration," he continued. "That could be extremely helpful."

The Prime Minister also met British Prime Minister Gordon Brown during the G-20 Summit. On the sidelines, he met the President of Russia, Dmitri Medvedev; the President of China, Hu Jintao; the King of Saudi Arabia, His Majesty Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz; the Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Aso, and several other world leaders.

Besides India, Britain and the United States, the G-20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the European Union. 

# Global crisis needs global solutions: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing the press at the conclusion of G-20 Summit in London on April 2.

**S**atisfied with the outcome of the G-20 summit held in London on April 2, and content that the final declaration reflected the issues raised by India, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the forum could become a major global voice.

“If the Group of 20 can find credible answers to major global issues, it will certainly carve out a place for itself,” the Prime Minister observed. It came with the rich diversity of not only having the U.S. and Russia as members, but also emerging economies like India and China. “It is a committee of 20, a unique combination,” he added.

In a keynote address he delivered at a dinner hosted for the G-20 leaders, the Prime Minister said that the current global financial crisis called for “global solutions” and urged the international community to work together to help solve the crisis.

## Excerpts from the Prime Minister's speech:

“The problems facing the world economy are well known and need no elaboration. The downturn is much deeper than we thought when we met in Washington in November last year, and prospects of a recovery have

receded to 2010 at best. A global crisis requires global solutions. Restoration of the banking system in industrialized countries to full functionality is a precondition for successful revival of the global economy. This is primarily a task for the governments of the individual countries concerned. The IMF has estimated that the write-down of toxic assets needed may be as high as \$2.8 trillion in the U.S. and \$1.4 trillion in Europe and Japan.

“A rescue effort on this scale will place a huge burden on tax payers and this has given rise to considerable public anger, which is entirely understandable. However, it has to be explained to tax payers, and their elected representatives, that anger at the irresponsible behavior on the part of managements of financial institutions should not come in the way of efforts to resurrect the system.

“Most industrialized countries, and developing countries, have resorted to fiscal stimulus measures. I recognize that it is not easy to determine the level of fiscal stimulus that is appropriate for different countries.

“We in India have been fortunate in having weathered the global downturn better than many others. Our growth rate, which was close to 9 percent in

the previous five years, will fall below 7 percent in 2008-09. We have made aggressive use of both monetary and fiscal policy, with a total fiscal stimulus or expansion of the fiscal deficit above the planned level of almost 4 percentage points of GDP in 2008-09. We hope to be able to achieve a similar growth rate in 2009-10.

“We must declare our resolve to increase the resources available with the IMF substantially, by around \$500 billion over the next two years.

“We should also agree on a fresh allocation of Special Drawing Rights of around \$250 billion. This would provide the developing countries with about \$80 billion of usable resources when liquidity is exceptionally tight.

“We must immediately endorse a 200 percent increase in the capital of the Asian Development Bank. The World Bank should also expand its lending in the next two to three years.

“An issue of vital concern to developing countries is the rise of protectionist sentiment in the industrialized world. However, it will be a test of leadership whether we can persuade the public that we must not repeat past mistakes.

“This meeting has shown the utility of the G-20 process, and we look forward to the next summit meeting of G-20 leaders in the second half of the year, and to the early implementation of what has been agreed today.

“There is a continuing need to redefine the role of our institutions of global economic governance to deal with the problems of today and to reflect contemporary realities.

“The process of overcoming the global crisis will not be easy. Given the goodwill and the meeting of minds among leaders that was possible in London over the last two days, the world has a basis to begin solving the crisis. The international community can and must work together to do so.”

## India's Chief Justice pays homage at Atlanta's Gandhi statue

**T**he Honorable Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, led a delegation of prominent Indian judges, officials and academicians to the U.S. recently. Chief Justice Balakrishnan's visit to The King Center, located on the historic Auburn Ave in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 4, coincided with the 41st anniversary of the assassination of the legendary civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The ceremony comprised laying of wreaths and lighting the Eternal Flame. It was organized by The King Center, in partnership with Atlanta Gas Light, supported by the Gandhi Foundation of the USA (GFUSA) and the MLK National Historic Site. Also present at the ceremony were Isaac Newton Farris, Jr., president and CEO of The King Center, and Dr. King's daughter Elder Bernice A. King, Member, King Center Board, and the founder and president of Be A King Enterprises, LLC.

In his remarks, Farris introduced Chief Justice Balakrishnan as "the highest-ranking legal officer of the world's largest democracy".

Martin Luther King III, the oldest son and namesake of America's greatest proponent of the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, warmly recalled his recent visit to India in February to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the visit of Dr. and Mrs. King to India in 1959. "Having recently returned from India, I now have a stronger appreciation of the phenomenal dedication that is required to administer the world's largest democracy," King said. "Today, we are deeply honored by the presence of India's highest ranking justices. And I would just add that another Indian attorney, one of the greatest leaders of human history, Mohandas K. Gandhi, is also honored at this historic site with a statue and an exhibit room, because he so profoundly inspired my father and influenced our freedom struggle."

Chief Justice Balakrishnan paid rich tributes to Dr. King and highlighted the similarities in the Civil Disobedience Movements led by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. King. "The universal values preached and practiced by the two great leaders have immense relevance for future generations," he said.

Ahead of the ceremony at The King Center, the Indian delegation paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Statue in Atlanta at a solemn function organized by GFUSA.

As the delegation readied itself for the Gandhi-King Peace March from the Gandhi Statue to the King Crypt, a short distance of one block, a rendering of Gandhi's favorite prayer of *Raghu Pati Raghav* served as a befitting tribute to the apostle of peace.

The Indian delegation included the wife of Hon'ble Chief Justice, Mrs. Nirmala Balakrishnan; Hon'ble Justice Dr. Arijit Pasayat, Supreme Court of India, and Mrs. Subala Pasayat; Mr. T. K. Viswanathan, Law Secretary, Ministry of Law and



(Clockwise) Bernice King, MLK III, Isaac Farris, Chief Justice of India Justice K.G. Balakrishnan and Subash Razdan, Chair of the Gandhi Foundation, U.S.A. Photos by Farukh, Passion Photo & Video.



Indian delegation at Gandhi Statue. Photos by Farukh, Passion Photo & Video.

Justice; Dr. R. K. Chauhan, Secretary, UGC, and Member, Finance Committee, IIL; Mr. Pradeep Kumar Sharma, Additional Registrar, Supreme Court of India; Dr. S. Sivakumar, Officiating Director, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi; Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Executive Member, Governing & Academic Council, Indian Law Institute; Mr. Dalip Kumar, Registrar, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi; Hon'ble Sanjiv Arora, Consul-General, India, Southeast USA.

Subsequently, the Chief Justice led a delegation on behalf of Indian Law Institute (ILI) to the Dean Rusk Centre (DRC) of the University of Georgia (UGA) Law School at Athens, Georgia, on April 5-6. The centerpiece of the program was a public lecture by the CJI on April 6 titled 'Individual Rights in India: A perspective from the Supreme Court' as well as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ILI and the DRC. The MoU is designed to foster closer academic linkages between the ILI and the UGA Law School and offer a window to a wider world of legal scholarship to the institute. The lecture was well-attended by students and faculty of the university and dwelt at length the extensive fundamental rights made available to the citizens of India by the Constitution and the role of the Supreme Court in protecting those rights.

# Indian economy to grow at 6 pc: RBI Governor

**N**otwithstanding several challenges, the Indian economy remains resilient and is expected to grow at around 6 percent in 2009-10 with fiscal and monetary stimulus measures cushioning the downturn, Reserve Bank of India Governor Duvvuri Subbarao said as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank began their twice-yearly meetings in Washington on April 25. He was representing Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who is a Member of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), and represents the Constituency consisting of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka.

Addressing the 19th IMFC meeting, the RBI Governor said: "On balance, with the assumption of normal monsoon, real GDP growth for 2009-10 is placed at around 6 percent."

"Going forward, the fiscal and monetary stimulus measures initiated during 2008-09 coupled with lower commodity prices will cushion the downturn by stabilizing domestic economic activity," Subbarao told the gathering of global Finance Ministers.

Noting that consumer price inflation too was declining, albeit less sharply, Subbarao said: "Notwithstanding several challenges, the Indian economy remains resilient with well functioning markets and sound financial institutions." Macro-economic management has helped in maintaining lower volatility in both financial and real sectors in India, relative to several other advanced and emerging market economies, he said.

However, the global financial crisis had affected India's growth momentum, Subbarao said. Referring to the impact of the financial crisis on emerging countries like India, the RBI Governor said: "Emerging economies have been dented by the collapse in external demand and commodity prices, the tightening constraints on access to external financing and the retrenchment of capital flows.



RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao

Emerging and developing economies could experience capital outflows of the order of 1 percent of GDP in 2009 with growth expected to slump to 1.5 percent. Since downside risks have materialized, the GDP growth for 2008-09 is now projected to turn out to be in the range of 6.5 to 6.7 percent after clocking annual growth of 8.9 percent on an average over the preceding five years (2003-08)."

As the global crisis brought to the fore the strong interactions between funding liquidity and market conditions, Subbarao said that both the Government and the Reserve Bank had responded to the challenge of minimizing the impact of the crisis on India in a coordinated and consultative manner.

The RBI Governor said that there were several challenges on the way forward, including implementing the fiscal stimulus packages, stepping up public investment; revival of private investment demand; and unwinding of fiscal stimulus in an orderly manner.

Subbarao also referred to the importance of maintaining credit flow while ensuring credit quality; preserving financial stability along with provision of adequate liquidity; and ensuring an interest rate environment that supports the return of the economy to a high growth path.

Concluding his remarks, Subbarao said: "The crisis has put to test the col-

lective leadership of the world and the competence and relevance of multilateral institutions. We are grappling with a crisis that has afflicted the entire world whether at the core or in the periphery. Much depends on a quick and internationally coordinated approach to a daunting, but not an insurmountable, challenge."

He also said, "The IMF is central to this endeavor and all of us have a stake in the role of the Fund in orchestrating the road to recovery. The Fund's capacity to deliver is ultimately connected to how much and how soon we empower it with resources, better governance, greater accountability and a redefined mandate that keeps pace with the requirements of the changing world. Within the IMF too, a radical shift in approach, culture and strategy is urgently warranted so that it divests itself of its past and much of the fallibility that goes with it. The world we will emerge into after the crisis will in all likelihood not be the same again, and the challenge is to re-fashion the IMF so that it becomes more relevant, useful and effective in the future."

Ashok Chawla, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, addressing the Spring Meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in Washington on April 26, listed the three-point agenda proposed by India for the World Bank to overcome the sharp slowdown. These were: A substantial increase in lending, a review of the lending capacity and the capital adequacy, and access to required levels of finance for larger developing countries through increased lending limits.

"All the three issues are important and we need to direct the Bank to start work on all fronts," Chawla said, noting that the lending needs of the developing world were enormous.

According to him, the changing dynamism of the global economy and the evolving weights of developing economies also needed to be reflected in the World Bank's governance structure.

# India for climate adaptation without cap on development

**S**tating that a cap on development may not be a feasible idea, India has proposed a collaborative approach to the problem of global warming to achieve sustainable development with a strategic shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

“We cannot put a cap on development,” the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy on Climate Change Issues, Shyam Saran, said on April 28 in Washington, proposing a rapid adaptation of technology that takes into account the overriding interest of development.

Saran, who led the Indian delega-



Shyam Saran

tion to a two-day meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate set up by President Barack Obama, found a similarity in the approaches of India and the U.S. to the issue. The meeting ended on April 28.

Describing energy security as very important, Saran said: “We don’t want energy to become a constraint. So in a sense there is a congruence in the Indian and U.S. approaches.”

The talks included an address by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and presentations by Energy Secretary Steven Chu and White House

Scientific Advisor John Holdren.

India made a presentation on what it was doing to enhance energy efficiency, Saran said, noting that India had been able to achieve 8-9 percent growth with energy use growing by only 3-3.5 percent.

Later, Saran also met with President Obama who said that he wanted India and the U.S. to build a renewable energy partnership as they work together to find solutions to climate change issues.

Referring to his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in London during the Group of 20 Summit, President Obama told Saran how encouraged and pleased he was with the exchange of views on various issues including energy and climate change.

## India plays a crucial role in South Asia: Holbrooke

**I**ndia plays a critical role in the region. We have the same priorities. So we need to move forward on that,” said the U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, who was on an official visit to India from April 7-8. Holbrooke was accompanied by Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi at the end of a five-day visit to the region, Holbrooke said that the U.S. had contacted India before finalizing its policy on Afghanistan and Pakistan. “We consulted the Indian Government very closely,” he said.

Mullen added: “India is a vital leader in the region. Its role is critical in so many constructive and positive ways.”

Holbrooke also lauded India’s role in Afghanistan’s reconstruction, particularly its initiatives in the agricultural sector. “Indian Ambassador Jayant

Prasad outlined for us what is being done. It’s an impressive and very, very comprehensive agricultural program,” he said. In this context, he noted that the U.S. effort in Afghanistan was focussed “not just on the military side but in engaging civil society too.”

On April 8, Holbrooke and Mullen held talks with Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon.

Holbrooke and Mullen also called on National Security Advisor M. K. Narayanan and the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy, S.K. Lambah, and discussed regional and security issues.

Mullen also separately met Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta — who is also Chairman of the Indian Chiefs of Staff Committee — to discuss issues relating to maritime security. Later, Holbrooke and Mullen took part in a breakfast meeting organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

## Howard Berman calls on PM



**A** U.S. Congressional delegation led by House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Howard Berman met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on April 17 and discussed issues related to terrorism and regional security.

Berman led a seven-member delegation that included Congressmen Gary Ackerman, Ted Royce and Jim Costa.

The Congressional delegation also called on National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon.

Issues relating to the security situation in India’s neighborhood figured prominently in the discussions between the two sides. India’s role in stabilizing Afghanistan was also discussed.

# Baisakhi celebrations at the Embassy

The festival of Baisakhi was celebrated at the Embassy on the evening of April 26. About 200 guests from Washington Metropolitan Area, representing all religions, attended the function, which began with the singing of Shabad by Mrs. & Mr. Sangeet Singh Khalsa of Raj Khalsa Gurudwara.

Ambassador Ms. Meera Shankar, in her remarks, welcomed the guests and observed how Baisakhi was of significance to the whole of India, marking the beginning of the New Year in many parts of the country. She also recalled how in the history of India, there were two periods of religious ferment and reform — once in the 6th century BC which saw the advent of Buddhism and Jainism and, thereafter, in the period about half a millennium ago which saw the Bhakti movement as well as the birth of Sikhism. Baisakhi has held special significance for the Sikh community, being the day on which Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa. She conveyed her good wishes to the community on this joyous occasion.

Dr. Harbans Lal, a Sikh scholar of repute from Dallas, spoke on the occasion about the significance of Baisakhi and made a scholarly exposition on



Clockwise: India's new Ambassador to the United States, Ms. Meera Shankar, welcoming the guests on the occasion of Baisakhi celebrations at the Embassy on April 26. Artistes presented a variety of musical and dance performances on the occasion.

how Baisakhi energized the whole nation in one form or other.

Dr. Daljit Singh Sawhney, Chairman of the Guru Nanak Foundation of America and a prominent community leader, welcomed the new Ambassador and thanked the Embassy for organizing a great function to celebrate Baisakhi.

There was a lively cultural program comprising Punjabi folk songs by Mrs.

Minoo Sidhu, Mrs. Jasbir Kaur and Mrs. Alka Batra. The highlight of the function was a Giddha performance by Ms. Kirandeep Assi, Ms. Ramandeep Kaur, Ms. Neeraj Sood, Ms. Ravinder Kaur Gill, Ms. Ravinder Kaur, Ms. Parmjit Chahal, Ms. Paramjit Kaur and Ms. Manjeet Kaur Gill.

The function concluded with a sumptuous dinner.



## Former President Dr. Abdul Kalam feted

**T**he Consulate General of India, New York, in association with the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), and the Indo-American Arts Council, (IAAC), hosted a reception in honor of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, on April 27. Around 300 people, comprising American and ethnic Indian-American dignitaries, representatives from major institutions of art, and Indian American community associations from the Greater New York area, attended the event.

The Consul-General of India in New York, Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, welcomed Dr. Kalam, and recalled that Dr. Kalam was affectionately known as the “people’s President”. Highlighting Dr. Kalam’s unique profile of being one of India’s foremost scientists, and the architect of India’s missile and nuclear programs, the Consul-General also touched upon Dr. Kalam’s role in India’s social transformation, his emphasis on educational uplift and technology innovation, and the manner in which he had endeared himself to millions of Indians the world over.

In his remarks, Dr. Kalam



Former President Dr. Abdul Kalam addressing the gathering. Ambassador Prabhu Dayal, Consul-General of India, New York, is seen on the left.

expressed happiness at meeting the Indian- American community, and exhorted the community to “be innovative”, and to combine “scientific spirit with a love for the fine arts”. Dr. Kalam recited a poem he had composed for the occasion. He also graciously answered questions put to him by the audience.

Earlier, Dr. Kalam inaugurated “Through the Eyes of Others: Photographs of India”, an exhibiton

sponsored by IAAC, and curated by Priyanka Mathew. The exhibition featured photographs on contemporary India by eleven photographers, hailing from the United States, Canada and Switzerland.

Lal Motwani, President GOPO-New York Chapter, presented a memento to Dr. Kalam on behalf of the organisation.

After the event, Dr. Kalam interacted informally with the audience. ■■■

## Art Exhibition and Asia Initiatives

**T**he Consulate General of India, New York, in association with Asia Initiatives, hosted a classical dance performance and an art exhibition on April 18. An audience of around 150 people, comprising Americans and ethnic Indian-Americans, besides representatives from major institutions of art and dance from the Greater New York area, attended the event.

Consul-General Prabhu Dayal welcomed the gathering, and spoke about the Consulate’s role in providing a platform to showcase India’s art and culture to a variety of audiences in New York, and also in promoting organizations with laudable humanitarian objectives.

On the occasion, Assemblyman from New Jersey, Upendra Chivikula, read out a proclamation from the Assembly of the State of



(From left): Mrs. Dayal, Consul-General Prabhu Dayal, Ambassador Philip Talbot, Assemblyman Upendra Chivikula and noted artiste Ms. Jaya Thyagarajan.

New Jersey in honor of Ambassador Prabhu Dayal for his services to the Indian-American community. Chivikula also congratulated the artistes who performed on the occasion. Former

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador Philip Talbot, and Geeta Mehta, Chairperson Asia Initiatives, also spoke on the occasion.

Rimli Roy, accompanied by Issani Paul Choudhary and Shiv Narayan Banerjee, performed a choreographed classical dance ensemble, fusing elements of Odissi, Manipuri and Kathak. Noted New Delhi-based artiste, Jaya Thyagarajan, exhibited her work of Tanjore paintings.

The U.S. chapter of Asia Initiatives was also launched at the event. Asia Initiatives is an international organization set up to promote the work and ideals of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, noted scientist and humanist. It focuses on promoting micro-credit as a tool towards poverty alleviation, sustainable development and environmental preservation in Asia.

## 'India to grow 8 percent-plus once global economy is back on track'

**R**eserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Rakesh Mohan has said that while there would be some moderation in India's economic growth in the immediate future owing to uncertain global market conditions, India would return to its trend of 8 percent plus growth rate as and when the global economy returns to normalcy. "This will, however, depend upon certain critical areas such as agriculture, infrastructure and fiscal consolidation being addressed," he said.


Addressing the media in Mumbai recently, while unveiling a report on India's financial sector prepared by the Apex bank's Committee on Financial Sector Assessment, he said: "Despite the widening trade deficit, the current account deficit has remained modest, largely due to high levels of private



transfers and service sector exports."

Referring to liquidity, he said: "The Reserve Bank's armory of policy instruments for maintaining liquidity has been effective in managing the current situation. Overall, during 2008-09, the rupee was volatile and the volatility was greatly accentuated from mid-September 2008 onwards. The Reserve Bank and the govern-

ment have been active in taking a range of measures to meet shortfalls in rupee as also foreign exchange liquidity. It may be noted that among the countries surveyed by the Bank for International Settlements, the Indian foreign exchange market volumes have shown the fastest growth during 2004 to 2007. The foreign exchange market in India has continued to function well even during this time of turmoil."

The Deputy Governor said: "Going forward, it is essential to continue with focussed attention on achieving a balance between financial development and financial stability. Also, for the growth momentum to be sustained, it is necessary to return to the path of fiscal prudence at both the central and state government levels." 

### Core sector records fastest growth

**T**he index of six core industries, which captures the performance of the infrastructure




sector, grew at the fastest pace in four months in February this year because of higher output from the petroleum refinery and steel sectors. The index expanded 2.2 percent in February. According to Cabinet Secretary K.M. Chandrasekhar, the fiscal stimulus packages have had a positive impact on the infrastructure sectors. "The infrastructure sector is responding to the stimulus packages. The expenditure this year is a whole lot better," he said at a national conference organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi. Finished (carbon) steel, used in many infrastructure industries, posted better production growth than the year ago month. Production of this metal product had shrunk for three consecutive months ending December 2008. Going forward, Soumendra Dash, chief economist, CARE Ratings, said: "In March, I expect all the six segments of the core sector to post growth."

### Steel output, sales show signs of recovery

**T**he country's steel sector staged a smart recovery in the three months to March-end on account of a revival in demand from the automobile, rural infrastructure and housing sectors, at a time when the world's major steel-producing countries are facing a steep fall in output. Steel production and consumption grew at 1.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, in the January-



March quarter over the same period last year, after turning in dismal figures in the previous quarter, when production and consumption slipped 7.8 percent and 13.6 percent, respectively. The recovery in steel production has been aided by the improved sales performance of steel companies. Q4 saw most of the large steel companies such as SAIL, Tata Steel and Essar operating at full capacity. 

### Stimulus at work: Auto sales rise

**S**low but steady is the impact of the two stimulus packages announced by the Centre in December and January to revive sales in the automobile sector. Sales figures for March reported by companies on April 1, showed that while year-on-year sales continued to slip, there were improvements on a monthly basis. For instance, sales of Hyundai Motor India, the country's second-largest passenger car manufacturer, increased by 16.7 percent in March at 24,754 units, as compared to 21,212 units in February. Honda

Siel Cars India registered a growth of 32 percent last month at 7,368 units vis-à-vis 5,579 units in February; sales of General Motors India went up by 1.6 percent at 5,001 units as compared to 4,921 units in February. Tata Motors' sales, on the other hand, grew by 24 percent in March. Even Mahindra & Mahindra posted a growth of 31.4 percent at 25,748 units as compared to 19,594 units in February.



## India among top 12 manufacturers: UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) found that the share of developing countries in the world's manufacturing value-added (MVA) output has almost doubled in the last 18 years.

UNIDO, in the International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2009, stated that developing countries produced almost 30 percent of world MVA at the end of 2008, as compared to 16 percent in 1990.

The per capita MVA doubled as early as 2006, while the industrialized world achieved merely 30 percent increase, it added.

Among developing countries, those in Asia account for nearly three-



fourths of the total MVA.

For India, the growth rate of MVA output rose from 6.9 percent in 2000-2005 to 12.3 percent in 2005-2007. The MVA per capita grew 10.6 percent in 2005-2007 compared to 5.2 percent in 2000-2005.

The share of MVA in India's gross

domestic product (GDP) stood at 14.8 percent in 2006 compared to 13.8 percent in 2001, UNIDO stated in the yearbook. Manufacturing still contributes around 15 percent of the country's GDP.

According to UNIDO analysis based on 2007 figures, India ranks among the top 12 producers of MVA. In textiles, the country is ranked 4th, after China, the U.S. and Italy; while in electrical machinery and apparatus it is ranked 5th. It holds the 6th position in the basic metals category; 7th in chemicals and chemical products; 10th in leather, leather products, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel; 12th in machinery and equipment and motor vehicles. ■

## Petroleum product consumption grows 6.9 pc

Signs of revival are increasingly becoming visible in the Indian economy. After steel and cement, it is the turn of petroleum products. Having witnessed a modest growth rate of 3.4 percent and 2.5 percent during January and February respectively, consumption of petroleum products registered a remarkable growth of 6.9 percent in March on the back of double-digit



growth in consumption of petrol and diesel.

The two products together account for half of petroleum products' consumption. Industry experts said that March

growth was surprising, given the industrial and economic slowdown.

Though March data are yet to be compiled, industry-wise data show a revival in steel and cement. Cargo movement was also better in March as

harvest of the rabi crop was on. "Petrol and diesel sales should do better in April-May as well owing to the Parliamentary elections," said G.C. Daga, director (marketing), Indian Oil Corporation.

The harvesting and movement of rabi crops like wheat, pulses and oilseeds is also expected to aid demand during April-May.

The consumption of petrol and diesel saw a growth of 13.3 and 11.5 percent, respectively, in March. ■

### Foreign trade policy to be aligned with GST

The new foreign trade policy, which is being prepared by the Commerce Ministry, will be aligned with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) only after implementation of this indirect tax mechanism.

The new policy is likely to be announced by the next government at the Centre by mid-2009, while the GST is likely to be implemented from April 1, 2010. The current foreign trade policy of 2004-09 was unveiled by the Government on September 1, 2004, and was to expire on March 31, 2009. However, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Commerce Ministry had extended its tenure till a new policy is ready.

The foreign trade policy has several export promotion measures that reimburse indirect levies charged on exports. These levies will now be subsumed under the proposed GST and will have only two slabs — one for the Centre and the other for the states. Therefore, the new export policy will have to specify, how the current benefits given to exporters are matched with the proposed GST rates.

### FII, funds can invest in IDRs, says SEBI

Market regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has permitted foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and mutual funds to invest in Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs). The move to widen the investor base will increase liquidity for IDRs that will be issued in India. Initially, when IDRs were introduced, the government allowed only Indian citizens to invest.

The board of SEBI also decided to permit the issue of depository receipts by custodians on behalf of issuers, and demat holding of IDRs. Just like ADRs, where Indian companies raise resources from overseas market, IDRs would enable foreign firms to do the same from Indian markets. ADRs or IDRs are derivative instruments, that is, they derive their value from the shares deposited with the custodian. Basically, the foreign company will deposit shares with a custodian, who, in turn, will issue depository receipts based on these shares. The receipts are issued based on the ratio of how many shares equal a single depository receipt.

## India an emerging global business power: ISB survey

**W**ith foreign assets growing by more than 100 percent annually in recent years, Indian multinational enterprises (MNEs) have become significant investors in global business markets and India is rapidly staking a claim to being a true global business power, according to a survey of Indian MNEs investing outside India.

The survey, done by the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, and the Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment (VCCI), was released at Columbia University in New York on April 13.

According to an ISB press release, the survey is part of a long-term study of the rapid global expansion of MNEs from emerging markets, in particular from the BRIC countries — Brazil, Russia, India and China. It establishes a baseline against which subsequent developments can be measured.

The survey identifies 24 large multinationals and ranks them on the basis



of their foreign assets. These 24 companies are among the largest outward investors from India and, in 2006, they jointly accounted for \$15.3 billion in foreign assets, 60,000 employees abroad, \$12.7 billion in foreign sales and 441 foreign affiliates (branches, subsidiaries, etc.) in 75 countries.

The leading company on the list of 24 was the state-controlled Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), which accounted for 31 percent of the foreign assets on the list.

It was followed by the conglomerate Tata Group, accounting for a further 27 percent.

### India Inc likely to post 77 pc growth in PAT

**I**ndia Inc will see a robust growth rate of over 77 percent in Profit After Tax (PAT) in FY10, an economic think tank has projected, in its latest report.

"India Inc is expected to post a robust 77.9 percent growth rate in PAT in 2009-10," the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) said in the report. This would be substantial growth, considering that the December 2008 quarter witnessed a sharp 39.7 percent decline in PAT. CMIE attributes this projected high growth to expectation that the petroleum products sector would return to profit from March 2009 quarter.

The report also said that except for the petroleum products sector, the rest of corporate India is expected to report a 23.1 percent rise in aggregate PAT in 2009-10.

On the sales side, CMIE expects India Inc to post a 7.4 percent rise in FY'10.

Sales growth of the non-financial services sector was likely to be 16-19 percent. Sectors such as banking, construction and electricity were expected to remain isolated from the impact of the global slowdown, it said.

The sales growth of corporate India would pick up in the second half and would lead to a 7.4 percent rise in sales for 2009-10, the CMIE said in its report.

### NELP-VIII launched, 70 areas offered for bidding



**I**ndia on April 9 launched its biggest-ever auction of oil and gas exploration blocks, offering 70 areas for bidding. "We are offering 24 deep-sea blocks, 28 shallow water blocks and 18 onland blocks for bidding in the eighth edition of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)," Petroleum Secretary R.S. Pandey told reporters in New Delhi.

Alongside NELP-VIII, the Government also offered for bidding 10 areas for extraction of gas, known as coal bed methane (CBM), from below coal fields. Bidding for CBM-IV and NELP-VIII rounds will close on August 10, he said. India had offered 57 blocks in NELP-VII last year and awarded 44 to companies like BHP Billiton and Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC). In the first six rounds, 162 areas with an investment commitment of \$8.33 billion were awarded.

"Reliance (Industries) beginning production from its Krishna Godavari basin KG-D6 block will bring in more investors," Pandey said. The company was awarded KG-D6 block in the first round of NELP in 1999 and it began gas production on April 1. Eighty million cubic meters per day of peak output from KG-D6, expected in a year's time, will double the gas production of the country.

### Sensex may regain 21,000 levels: report



**T**he Indian stock market has been termed as a potential "baby bull" as the Sensex may continue to advance over next 15 years and is likely to breach its all-time high level of 21,000 during the period, a report says. A technical research report by U.S.-based Elliot Wave International, has termed India, Taiwan and New Zealand as potential "baby bulls", while stock markets in

Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Australia are going to be under "bear" grip, the report states. It also says that the recent sharp reversal rally in the Indian market, post the October 2008 lows, points to the Sensex regaining earlier high levels. It adds that if the rally continues in the same proportion as between 2003 and 2008, "the Sensex may continue advancing for 15 years before reaching the end of a wave". It further says: "The potential baby bulls completed only three waves down from their respective highs, which makes them strong candidates to rally back to at least near their all-time highs." The Sensex had touched an all-time high of 21,206.77 points on January 10, 2008, it then fell to below 8,000 before recovering to 11000 points.

## FDI flow to India will remain robust: Goldman Sachs

**T**he global economic slowdown will not affect the foreign direct investment (FDI) flow to India as domestic demand remains “resilient”, investment banker Goldman Sachs said in New Delhi on April 6. “FDI is showing positive signals,” said Tushar Poddar, an economist with Goldman Sachs.

Poddar further said: “We expect FDI inflows to remain significant in 2009-10, given India’s relatively resilient domestic demand momentum.”

According to the bank, the FDI flow to India during September-January —



the months when the credit crisis was at its peak — amounted to \$9.2 billion, higher than \$7.9 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Pranjul Bhandari, another economist at Goldman, said: “India’s balance of

payments (BOP) may have had its worst quarter in October-December 2009, when it showed a deficit of \$18 billion.”

However, “in 2009-10, we expect the current account deficit to narrow to 1.3 percent of GDP from 3.5 percent last fiscal with the trade deficit narrowing considerably,” she added.

Notwithstanding the weakness in trade credit and foreign portfolio inflows, economists contend that the basic balance of payments (BBOP) situation is expected to turn to positive this fiscal.

## US removes levy on Indian shrimp

**G**iving a major relief to Indian shrimp exporters, the U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) has recently withdrawn a customs bond requirement imposed on shrimp in 2004.



According to a CBP notice, the enhanced bond requirement (EBR) on shrimp items from India and Thailand stands fully withdrawn, effective from April 1.

The notification said that the existing bonds for seafood export would be terminated henceforth. The latest notification is in line with a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling issued in

favor of India and Thailand in 2008.

During the first week of March, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DoC) had reduced the anti-dumping duty on

Indian shrimp to 0.79 percent from 1.69 percent. The U.S. had imposed the bond requirement to curb the menace of dumping of cheap shrimp and shrimp products from India and other countries. As per the old U.S. Customs order, exporters had to pay an amount equal to \$50,000, or 10 percent of the previous year’s duties paid by an exporter.

## Tourism sector to get infrastructure status soon



**T**he Government will soon give infrastructure status to the tourism sector, enabling hotels to get cheaper loans for new projects, said a senior government official. “Getting infrastructure status for the tourism industry is very near conclusion,” Ministry of Tourism Secretary Sujit Banerjee said while speaking at the inaugural session of the three-day ‘The Great Indian Travel Bazaar 2009’ in Jaipur recently.

He said that tourist arrivals will increase in the country very soon after it declined in recent months, especially after the Mumbai attacks in November last year.

Foreign tourist arrivals have gone down by 10-12 percent since the attacks, he said.

The Ministry of Tourism is also working on a proposal for providing a “single-window clearance” for setting up new hotel projects. “We are working on single window clearance for hotel projects in the country,” Banerjee said.

While speaking at the session, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group chairperson and managing director Jyotsna Suri said: “India is a key (tourism) destination and is still unexplored.”

## Central bank eases ECB norms further

**T**he Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further eased the external commercial borrowing (ECB) norms for banks to issue ‘no objection’ certificates under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. Under the relaxed norms, a ‘no objection’ by banks can be extended for issue of corporate guarantees in favor of the overseas lessee, and for operating leases for import of aircraft, helicopters and engines.



The RBI, however, has clarified that the ‘no objection’ is issued only under the provisions of FEMA, 1999 and should not be construed as an approval by any other statutory authority. Further, the ‘no objection’ should not be construed as regularizing or validating any irregularities, contravention or other lapses, if any, under the provisions of FEMA or any other laws or regulations.

## SEZ units beat export slump

**E**xports from special economic zones (SEZs) rose 33 percent during the year to March 2009, far outpacing the country's overall exports growth of just 4 percent, figures put out by the Commerce Department show.



seem to have handled the demand slowdown better than trading exporters," said a Commerce Department official.

Superior infrastructure in the zones also helped exporters cut costs and remain com-

petitive. The past few years of strong economic growth saw several SEZs mushroom across the country, but that pace has slackened in recent months.

While the global trade slowdown has not affected the 87 operational zones and about 120 zones that will start operations by December, developers of new zones are going slow on investments. Developers have to request for an extension as formal approvals lapse after a year without investments.

Apart from DLF — which has asked for denotification of four of its SEZs — no other developer has sought permission to pull out.

According to the data, exports from such manufacturing hubs totalled \$18.16 billion last year, up from \$13.60 billion a year before.

India's total goods exports are estimated at \$168.80 billion in 2008-09, up from \$162 billion in the previous fiscal year. Overall exports have been hit by a steep drop in global trade volumes because of a recession in most developed economies.

"One reason why SEZ exports have fared better than overall exports is that most exporters in the zones are manufacturers. Manufacturing exporters

## Strong economic profile for infrastructure assets

**G**lobal rating agency Fitch has said that many infrastructure projects in India have a strong economic profile, but the sector is not immune to the financial crisis.



over and the government and the central bank actions should help avoid the worst. Despite some risks attached to the infrastructure projects, it sees infrastructure

spending as a tool to counter the slowdown. Risks such as delays in project completion, ability of equipment suppliers to meet deadlines and readiness of bank syndicates to increase lending for potential project cost overruns can result in selective downgrades, it said.

"Infrastructure sector is resilient but not immune to the financial crisis and the performance will continue to be impacted," Fitch said. The agency said some migration is also likely to take place from commercial banks to the bond markets through the bundling, restructuring and securitization of multiple project loans.

Outlook on infrastructure credits is largely stable, Fitch said. "Many of the rated projects have favorable economic profiles, including a strong-to-fair capacity to repay debt." However, it added many projects carry a heavy debt load and debt as a percentage of total project capitalization has ranged from 48 to 86 percent.

"Demand for infrastructure in India will far exceed availability for the foreseeable future. Long-term economic value of many of these assets remains strong," Fitch said.

Fitch said the economic crisis is not

## Drug firms may exceed growth targets

**D**espite forex losses and currency fluctuations impacting profitability, leading Indian drug companies such as Cipla, Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Wockhardt are



likely to exceed revenue growth targets set for financial year 2008-09. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, which is celebrating its 25th year of inception, had targeted 25 percent growth in revenues for 2008-09. In the first three quarters, the \$997.2 million company recorded revenue growth of 25 percent, 30 percent and 49 percent, respectively, despite heavy losses in the first quarter.

## Pension for all, up and running from May 1

**T**he New Pension Scheme (NPS) will finally be opened up to the organized and unorganized sector from May 1 this year. The scheme has so far been open only to government employees. The move has been welcomed by pension sector experts. Experts feel the NPS — which aims to provide retirement benefits to even the neighborhood grocer and plumber — will not take off unless massive awareness is generated through the media.

## Pfizer to acquire more stake in Indian arm

**G**lobal pharmaceutical major Pfizer on April 13 said it would make an offer to acquire a further 33.77 percent in its Indian subsidiary Pfizer Ltd for \$134.97 million.



The New York-based pharmaceutical major is offering \$13.42 per share. The acquisition is to be done through a wholly-owned subsidiary, Pfizer Investments Netherlands B.V.

Upon acceptance of the offer, Pfizer would have increased its stake in its Indian arm to 75 percent from the current 41.23 percent.

# Indian American named to Obama team

**P**resident Obama has formed a three-man team, including two Indian Americans — Aneesh Chopra and Vivek Kundra to help checking wasteful spending.

“If we’re to going to rebuild our economy on a solid foundation, we need to change the way we do business in Washington,” President Obama said in his weekly address on April 18. “We need to restore the American people’s confidence in their government that it is on their side, spending their money wisely, to meet their families needs.”

Announcing the appointment of Indian American Aneesh Chopra, currently Virginia’s Secretary of Technology, to serve as the chief technology officer, President Obama said: Aneesh will promote technological innovation to help achieve our most urgent priorities — from creat-



Aneesh Chopra

ing jobs and reducing health care costs to keeping our nation secure.” Chopra presently leads Virginia’s strategy to effectively leverage technology in government reform, to promote the state’s innovation agenda, and foster technology-related economic development. Earlier, he worked as managing director with the Advisory Board Company, leading the firm’s Financial Leadership Council and the Working Council for Health Plan Executives.

Chopra and Jeffrey Zients, a CEO,

management consultant and entrepreneur, who was named as the chief performance officer, will work with another Indian American, Vivek Kundra, to help give Americans a government that is effective, efficient and transparent.

Announcing plans to eliminate dozens of government programs shown to be wasteful or ineffective, President Obama said: “All across America, families are making hard choices and it is time their government did the same. That is why I have assembled a team of management, technology, and budget experts to guide us in this work, leaders who will help us revamp government operations from top to bottom, and ensure that the federal government is truly working for the American people.”

— IANS

## Indian American Rajiv Shah to head Obama’s agro-research



**P**resident Obama has named Rajiv J. Shah, an Indian-American scientist, to the key post of Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics in the Department of Agriculture, the White House announced April 17.

Shah is currently the director of agricultural development in the global

development program for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He manages the foundation’s agricultural development program that helps the world’s poor lead healthy and productive lives. Shah joined the foundation in 2001, and previously served as its director of strategic opportunities and deputy director of policy and finance for global health.

Prior to joining the foundation, Shah was the health care policy advisor on Al Gore’s 2000 presidential campaign and a member of Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell’s transition committee on health. He is the co-founder of Health Systems Analytics and Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans. In addition, he has served as a policy aide in the British Parliament and worked at the World Health Organization (WHO).

Currently, Shah serves on the boards of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Seattle Public Library and Seattle Community College District. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the London School of Economics (LSE), and has published articles on health policy and global development. In 2007, Shah was named a ‘Young Global Leader’ by the World Economic Forum. — IANS

## India-born Anju Bhargava on White House faith council



Anju Bhargava

**P**resident Obama has appointed Indian-American management consultant Anju Bhargava, also an ordained ‘pujari’ (priest), as a member of a faith-based advisory council of the White House.

The council is part of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and is composed of religious and secular leaders and scholars from different backgrounds. Each member of the council is appointed to a one-year term. The office acts as a resource for non-profits and community organizations looking

for ways to make a bigger impact in their communities.

Bhargava is the second Indian-American to be appointed to the council, after Eboo S. Patel, founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago. She is the founder president of the New Jersey-based Asian Indian Women of America.

Bhargava also co-started Asian Indians in Livingston and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. initiative. She is a counselor and volunteer at St. Barnabas Pastoral Care Department and Livingston’s Interfaith Clergy Association.

Bhargava began her career over two decades ago as a banker and has held senior positions in corporate America. She has developed an executive education program called ‘Chakravayuhu’ or the labyrinth, a program for mentoring women to make the “step-change” in their careers in the corporate world. — IANS

# Indian-led study finds clues to sudden death

**A**n India-born, Kolkata-educated scientist at Johns Hopkins University and his fellow researchers have found an answer to sudden death of healthy people, including athletes.



Aravinda Chakravarti

Describing it as sudden cardiac death, they say it is caused by abrupt stopping of the heart due to an abnormality in its electrical impulses. In a study published in *Nature Genetics*, Aravinda Chakravarti of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and fellow scientists say that in such cases, the heartbeat becomes very irregular — either very fast or very slow — leading to fatal results. They say their research has linked sudden cardiac death to congenital problems with the heart.

One such congenital problem is called 'long QT syndrome' (LQTS). People with this problem are prone to have either a prolonged or shortened

QT interval, which is the time it takes for the heart to contract and then get ready for the next beat.

Scientists say when people with this syndrome suddenly become stressed or undertake strenuous physical activity, their heart simply snaps as it is

not able to speed up properly. This results in sudden cardiac death. In their groundbreaking research, Chakravarti and colleagues have identified 10 common variants of genes that modify the QT interval or heart beat.

Chakravarti said: "The reason people die from this cardiovascular disorder is because we know nothing about the antecedents."

Chakravarti added: "It's like a truck barreling down a slope: there's no way to stop it. The only way out is to understand the science of this in a deep, meaningful way. If we know, we can begin to intervene." — *IANIS*

## Kal Penn to join White House



**K**al Penn, Indian-American star of Mira Nair's film 'The Namesake' and a long time supporter of President Obama, is joining the White House as a liaison between

the administration and Asian constituents.

Born Kalpen Suresh Modi to Indian immigrants from Gujarat, the 31-year-old actor, who had a recurring role on Fox's popular TV show 'House', would join the White House staff as an associate director in the Office of Public Liaison. Penn will connect President Obama with the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, as well as arts groups.

Penn endorsed Obama's White House bid in late 2007 and was a frequent campaign surrogate on the trail last year. He said his interest in politics has deep roots. "It's because of the value system my grandparents instilled in me. They marched with Gandhi in the Indian independence movement, and that was always in the back of my head. So I thought about it a little more." — *IANIS*

15

## Indian American leads project to make CFLs more efficient

**C**ompact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use just one-third of the energy that old incandescent bulbs to provide the same amount of light. Now CFLs are going to be even more efficient, thanks to research being led by an Indian American scientist.



Praveen Jain

power these bulbs most efficiently has been too large and too costly for consumer-grade compact fluorescents," said Praveen Jain, professor of electrical and computer engineering at Queens University.

"In fact, when a CFL is used with a dimmer switch,

its bulb can burn out sooner than expected." The solution emerged when John Lam, a doctoral candidate working with Jain, developed a compact, simplified circuitry and controller design that overcomes the power problem while also meeting consumers' need for a dimmable, inexpensive CFL.

— *IANIS*

Queen's University researchers addressed two problems with CFLs — they don't work with dimmer switches, and their energy efficiency is compromised because of a problem known as poor power factor.

"Consumer-grade CFLs need to be compact and inexpensive. Until now, the complicated circuitry needed to

## 6 Indian-Americans win Soros Fellowship

**S**ix Indian-Americans are among 31 students chosen for the prestigious 2009 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship. The fellowship, instituted for immigrants or children of immigrants, entitles the students to receive a grant of \$20,000 and a tuition grant of up to half the tuition cost of the U.S. graduate program attended by the Fellow.

The six were selected from nearly 750 applicants.

The winners included Ashish Agrawal (22), a student at the University of California, Chitra Akileswaran (26), a student at Harvard Medical School, Tarun Chhabra (28), a PhD in international relations at Oxford, Shantanu Gaur (22), a first-year medical student at Harvard Medical School, Sushma Sheth (29), a graduate of Brown University, and Previn Warren (26), a first-year student at Harvard Law School. — *Indian Express*



## DESIGNING a better future

**P**roduct design is what some management gurus would call the tipping point for a sale. When a consumer has a host of brands to choose from, a uniquely designed product often wins the race for innovative manufacturer.

Common examples include cars, mobile phones, durables, furniture and apparel. A consumer will pick one product over another just because it looks good or is easier to use, emphasizing the importance of a utilitarian and aesthetic appeal in determining the marketing success of a product.

Kiran Deshmukh, chief operating officer, Sona Koyo Steering, says: "We are trying to create a mindset for innovation. To keep ahead of the competition, innovation in design is a must. We are creating tools, and developing skills so that people are able to think out of the box."

Sona Koyo has designed the steer-



ing wheel of the Nano, the world's cheapest car launched by Tata Motors.

A growing number of Indian companies and international firms are now trying to find a design-led edge in their marketing campaigns. Motorola's Razer phone is one such example. It touted nothing more than design in its advertising and was counted a successful product.

Another product that has been a huge success, mainly because of its unique design, is the Maruti Suzuki and Swift Dzire, selling like hot cakes in Indian market. In fact, Maruti Suzuki has prioritized the designing process — the Swift, SX4 and Dzire being three recent examples — to increase its share in the domestic market.

The Swift's radical style, even as it maintains all other functional benefits of frugal fuel consumption and ease of service, makes it a runaway success.

Nearly a dozen Maruti engineers worked on the design of the Dzire. After the design-led success of the Swift, Maruti Suzuki, recently introduced its fifth 'world strategic model' — the A-Star. It was designed in India by two Maruti engineers, Saurabh Singh and Rajesh Kumar Goddu. For the first time, the Japan-based Suzuki allowed its India-based engineers to move beyond cosmetic changes, towards engineering and designing a new product.

Other Suzuki products that Indian engineers have worked on include the Zen Estilo and Swift. "We hope to design and produce our own car model from India by 2011," says C.V. Raman, chief general manager, (engineering), Maruti Udyog Limited.

In fact, the design factor is gaining importance in India, becoming a unique selling proposition (USP) for many products.

Sunil Sinha, CEO, Tata Quality Management Services, says: "As a group, we started looking at innovation seriously in the 1990s. Internally, we have amplified the message of innovation, strengthened our R&D and increased our budget spend." He stressed the need to change the mindset and make innovation happen in India.

One such product designed for Indian conditions is the Mileap Laptop from HCL. Priced at \$315 and weighing less than one kilo, this entry-level laptop has made computing more accessible.

"The idea is to increase PC penetration in India and improve net accessibility," says Rajendra Kumar, executive vice-president, HCL. Another innovation in design by the company is a PC for rural India that can be run on car batteries.

As design gains prominence in corporate strategy, a number of consultancies are emerging, with professionals offering advice to production managers and industrial engineers. Advertising agencies are also entering this fast-growing market with their own brand extensions.

The country's design skills are

being acknowledged internationally and India is fast emerging as a design hub. Companies such as Hyundai, Suzuki, Texas Instruments, Bell Labs, Lucent, Motorola and GE are tapping into the country's ample design talent.

Firms such as Harita TVS and Plexion Technologies provide design solutions to original equipment manufacturers (OEM) across Europe and the United States. Harita offers end-to-end solutions for next-generation products with its mechanical design services team.

Moreover, domestic firms are now acquiring global design companies as part of their strategy to move up the value ladder. For instance, Argentum Motors, a leading automobile contract manufacturer promoted by ex-Hyundai India chief BVR Subbu, acquired a 60-percent stake in Heuliez SA, a French automobile and design company.

Argentum and Heuliez Engineering and Design will work together to launch a global automotive design company. "Heuliez will be our bridge into Europe and we will take Heuliez to the rest of the world," says Ajay

Singh, chairman, Heuliez.

Utility and tractor major Mahindra & Mahindra recently acquired an Italian two-wheeler design firm, Engines Engineering SpA.

The company's tractor division recently designed a multi-utility farm vehicle, Shaan, which won a design award from the American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers. "We have a patent for it. The tractor is aimed at people who use it in their firms, as a family vehicle and for transporting goods," says R. K. Manrao, senior vice-president, M&M.

Tata Motors is another Indian engineering major to make an overseas acquisition. It recently picked up a stake in one of the largest Italian design firms, Pininfarina. The Italian design major also plans to set up a research, design and engineering center in Pune.

As product life cycles shorten in many categories, approved designs have to be in the pipeline, ready for production. Designers are finding difficult to dream up 'fresh' designs that work without being outlandish.

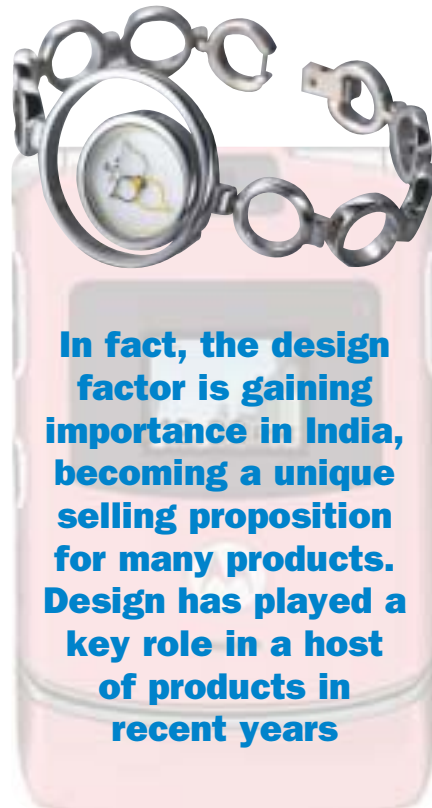
Being a blend of art and science, designers look to the oddest places for inspiration.

Honda Motors, for instance, was inspired by twin exhausts of fighter jets while designing the taillights of its new model.

Nike's new sneakers are Nintendo-inspired. Even mobile phone manufacturer HTC, looking for inspiration from non-telecommunication segments, bought San Francisco-based industrial design company, One & Co, a firm that has Microsoft, Sony and Nike among its clients.

One & Co also designs products in the fashion, footwear and sporting goods segments, among others.

Product design is gaining ground as part of overall corporate strategy. Forward-looking businesses have started including designers in corporate meetings, thereby acknowledging the importance of their contribution. In this fast growing field, India has just scratched the surface. 



**In fact, the design factor is gaining importance in India, becoming a unique selling proposition for many products. Design has played a key role in a host of products in recent years**

## ISRO successfully launches earth observation satellite

The Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its 14th rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) on April 20. It carried an earth observation surveillance satellite, RISAT2s, and the micro education satellite, 'ANUSAT'.



The earth observation satellite was placed in an orbit at an inclination of 41 degrees to the equator, and an orbital period of around 90 minutes.

The satellite will enhance ISRO's capability for Earth observation, especially during floods, cyclones, landslides and disaster management.

The rocket with a total payload of 340 kg, was launched from Sriharikota, 190 km from Chennai, at 6.45 am, attaining a speed of 7.2 km per second.

The Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT2s) weighed 300 kg and ANUSAT 40-kg. ANUSAT is an experimental communication satellite built by Anna University under the guidance of ISRO.

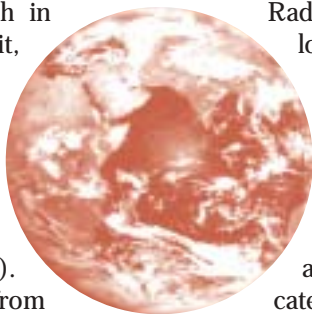
Reaching its orbit at 550 km above Earth, the rocket ejected ANUSAT 10 km further into its intended circular orbit.

ISRO Chairman G. Madhavan Nair described the launch as "a fantastic New Year gift for the country. It's a good asset for the nation. The vehicle's performance was precise and there was no deviation from the planned flight path."

The ISRO Chairman added that this was the 14th successful PSLV launch in an unbroken series since 1994. After the success of its developmental flights, there has been no looking back for the 44-metre-tall ISRO workhorse.

## Chandrayaan sends first 'full-Earth' image

From its firm perch in the lunar orbit, Chandrayaan-1 has sent back its newest images. One of them is its first full-Earth image captured in late March by the on board Terrain Mapping Camera (TMC). These images, taken from 400,000 km with India at the center, shows Asia and West Asia, and parts of Africa and Australia forming a terrestrial ring around the Indian Ocean.



The TMC, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation, intends to prepare a three-dimensional atlas of the moon with high spatial resolutions.

The spacecraft has also sent back images of the moon's craters taken by the Miniature Synthetic Aperture

Radar (Mini-SAR). The payload has given new insight into a very large impact crater, the 320-km wide Schrödinger, famous for a small volcanic vent on its basin floor.

Images of deposits around the vent have indicated fine-grained material, "expected of volcanic ash, magma erupted through explosive, fire-fountain eruptions on the moon many billions of years ago".

The Mini-SAR has also captured "a very young" impact crater, around three km in diameter. Still unnamed, it is on the western limb of the moon near the crater Sylvester.

Among the older craters captured by the radar are the Rozhdestvensky K and Sylvester itself.

## New oral cholera vaccine holds promise

A new low-cost oral vaccine against cholera, whose production technology has been transferred to India, could soon be made available to people in the country's endemic areas to help them gain immunity. The disease kills nearly 120,000 people globally every year.

"After 38 years of drought in cholera vaccination and cholera outbreaks not abating, it is very heartening to know that there is an affordable orally administered vaccine available now," Health Ministry advisor N.K. Ganguly said.

He was participating in a policymakers' meeting in New Delhi on April 10 on the "Introduction of cholera vaccination using new-generation oral cholera vaccines in India".

The vaccine, after trials and evaluation on a sample size of 70,000 people in Kolkata, "has been found to provide over 60 percent protection and no decline in protection over two years," John D. Clemens, director-general of the Seoul-based International Vaccine Institute, said at a press conference after the meeting.

Half of those in the sample size were given the new vaccine, while the others were given placebos.

## Government launches India Innovation Initiative

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) on April 6 launched the India Innovation Initiative (i3) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry, and communication analyst Agilent Technologies.

Under the initiative, DST will launch a nation-wide competition for technology-based ideas in which innovators above 18 years of age can participate. Participants can submit their project proposals by May 30, 2009. "The DST receives plenty of ideas to develop through its national innovation fund (NIF). A select few can be worked out and developed into commercially viable innovations that can address pertinent problems like climate change and water scarcity," Anuj Sinha, the head of the science communication division at DST, said.

# The VICTORY

By Rabindranath Tagore



**S**he was the Princess Ajita. And the court poet of King Narayan had never seen her. On the day, he recited a new poem to the king, he would raise his voice just to that pitch, which could be heard by unseen hearers in the screened balcony high above the hall. He sent up his song towards the starland out of his reach, where, circled with light, the planet, who ruled his destiny shone unknown and out of ken.

He would espy some shadow moving behind the veil. A tinkling sound would come to his ear from afar, and would set him dreaming of the ankles, whose tiny golden bells sang at each step. Ah, the rosy red tender feet that walked the dust of the earth like God's mercy on the fallen! The poet had placed them on the altar of his heart, where he wove his songs to the tune of those golden bells. Doubt never arose in his mind as to whose shadow it was that moved behind the screen, and whose anklets they were that sang to the time of his beating heart.

Manjari, the maid of the princess, passed by the poet's house on her way to the river, and she never missed a day to have a few words with him on the sly. When she found the road deserted, and the shadow of dusk on the land, she would boldly enter his room, and sit at the corner of his carpet. There was a suspicion of an added care in the choice of the color of her veil, in the setting of the flower in her hair.

People smiled and whispered at this, and they were not to blame. For Shekhar the poet never took the trouble to hide the fact that these meetings were a pure joy to him.

The meaning of her name was the spray of flowers. One must confess that for an ordinary mortal it was suffi-

cient in its sweetness. But Shekhar made his own addition to this name, and called her the 'Spray of Spring Flowers'. And ordinary mortals shook their heads and said, Ah, me!

In the spring songs that the poet sang, the praise of the spray of spring flowers was conspicuously reiterated; and the king winked and smiled at him when he heard it, and the poet smiled in answer.

The king would put him the question; "Is it the business of the bee merely to hum in the court of the spring?"

The poet would answer; "No, but also to sip the honey of the spray of spring flowers."

And they all laughed in the king's hall. And it was rumored that the Princess Akita also laughed at her maid's accepting the poet's name for her, and Manjari felt glad in her heart.

Thus truth and falsehood mingle in life — and to what God builds man adds his own decoration.

Only those were pure truths which were sung by the poet. The theme was Krishna, the lover god, and Radha, the beloved, the Eternal Man and the Eternal Woman, the sorrow that comes from the beginning of time, and the joy without end. The truth of these songs was tested in his inmost heart by everybody from the beggar to the king himself. The poet's songs were on the lips of all. At the merest glimmer of the moon and the faintest whisper of the summer breeze, his songs would break forth in the land from windows and courtyards, from sailing-boats, from shadows of the wayside trees, in numberless voices.

Thus passed the days happily. The poet recited, the king listened, the hearers applauded, Manjari passed and repassed by the poet's room on her way to the river — the shadow flitted behind the screened balcony, and the tiny golden bells tinkled from afar.

Just then set forth from his home in the south a poet on his path of conquest. He came to King Narayan, in the kingdom of Amarapur. He stood before the throne, and uttered a verse in praise of the king. He had chal-

lenged all the court poets on his way, and his career of victory had been unbroken.

The king received him with honor, and said: "Poet, I offer you welcome."

Pundarik, the poet, proudly replied: "Sire, I ask for war."

Shekhar, the court poet of the king did not know how the battle of the muse was to be waged. He had no sleep at night. The mighty figure of the famous Pundarik, his sharp nose curved like a scimitar, and his proud head tilted on one side, haunted the poet's vision in the dark.

With a trembling heart Shekhar entered the arena in the morning. The theatre was filled with the crowd.

The poet greeted his rival with a smile and a bow. Pundarik returned it with a slight toss of his head, and turned his face towards his circle of adoring followers with a meaning smile. Shekhar cast his glance towards the screened balcony high above, and saluted his lady in his mind, saying! "If I am the winner at the combat today, my lady, thy victorious name shall be glorified."

The trumpet sounded. The great crowd stood up, shouting victory to the king. The king, dressed in an ample robe of white, slowly came into the hall like a floating cloud of autumn, and sat on his throne.

Pundarik stood up, and the vast hall became still. With his head raised high and chest expanded, he began in his thundering voice to recite the praise of King Narayan. His words burst upon the walls of the hall like breakers of the sea, and seemed to rattle against the ribs of the listening crowd. The skill with which, he gave varied meanings to the name Narayan, and wove each let-

ter of it through the web of his verses in all manner of combinations, took away the breath of his amazed hearers.

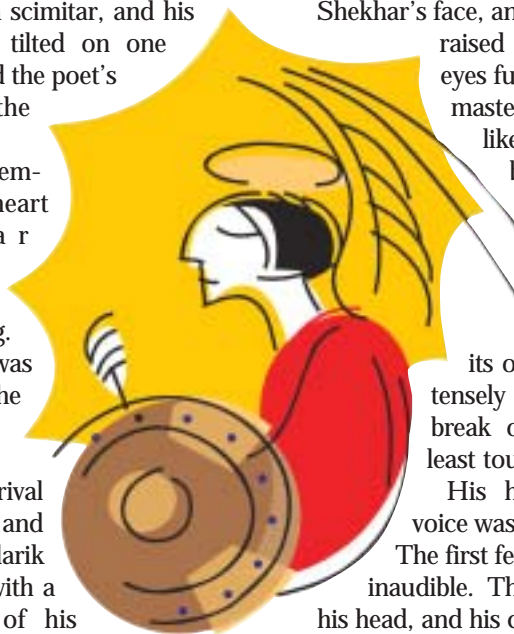
For some minutes after he took his seat his voice continued to vibrate among the numberless pillars of the king's court and in thousands of speechless hearts. The learned professors who had come from distant lands raised their right hands, and cried, Bravo!

The king threw a glance on Shekhar's face, and Shekhar in answer raised for a moment his eyes full of pain towards his master, and then stood up like a stricken deer at bay. His face was pale, his bashfulness was almost that of a woman, his slight youthful figure, delicate in its outline, seemed like a tensely strung *vina* ready to break out in music at the least touch.

His head was bent, his voice was low, when he began. The first few verses were almost inaudible. Then he slowly raised his head, and his clear sweet voice rose into the sky like a quivering flame of fire. He began with the ancient legend of the kingly line lost in the haze of the past, and brought it down through its long course of heroism and matchless generosity to the present age. He fixed his gaze on the king's face, and all the vast and unexpressed love of the people for the royal house rose like incense in his song, and enwreathed the throne on all sides. These were his last words when, trembling, he took his seat: "My master, I may be beaten in play of words, but not in my love for thee."

Tears filled the eyes of the hearers, and the stone walls shook with cries of victory.

Mocking this popular outburst of feeling, with an august shake of his head and a contemptuous sneer, Pundarik stood up, and flung this question to the assembly; "What is there superior to words?" In a moment the hall lapsed into silence again.



Then with a marvellous display of learning, he proved that the Word was in the beginning, that the Word was God. He piled up quotations from scriptures, and built a high altar for the Word to be seated above all that there is in heaven and in earth. He repeated that question in his mighty voice: "What is there superior to words?"

Proudly he looked around him. None dared to accept his challenge. The pandits shouted, Bravo! The king remained silent with wonder, and the poet Shekhar felt himself of no account by the side of this stupendous learning.

Next day Shekhar began his song. It was of that day, when the pipings of love's flute startled for the first time the hushed air of the Vrinda forest. The shepherd women did not know, who was the player or whence came the music. Sometimes, it seemed to come from the heart of the south wind, and sometimes from the straying clouds of the hilltops. It came with a message of tryst from the land of the sunrise, and it floated from the verge of sunset with its sigh of sorrow. The stars seemed to be the stops of the instrument that flooded the dreams of the night with melody. The music seemed to burst all at once from all sides, from fields and groves, from the shady lanes and lonely roads, from the melting blue of the sky, from the shimmering green of the grass. They neither knew its meaning nor could they find words to give utterance to the desire of their hearts. Tears filled their eyes, and their life seemed to long for a death that would be its consummation.

Shekhar forgot his audience, forgot the trial of his strength with a rival. He stood alone amid his thoughts that rustled and quivered round him like leaves in a summer breeze, and sang the Song of the Flute. He had in his mind the vision of an image that had taken its shape from a shadow, and the echo of a faint tinkling sound of a distant foot-step.

He took his seat. His hearers trembled with the sadness of an indefinable delight, immense and vague, and they forgot to applaud him. As this feeling died away Pundarik stood up before

the throne and challenged his rival to define, who was this Lover and who was the Beloved. He put the question again: "Who is Krishna, the lover, and who is Radha, the beloved?"

Then he began to analyze the roots of those names, — and various interpretations of their meanings. He brought before the bewildered audience all the intricacies of the different schools of metaphysics with consummate skill. Each letter of those names he divided from its fellow, and then pursued them with a relentless logic till they fell to the dust in confusion, to be caught up again and restored to a meaning never before imagined by the subtlest of word-mongers.

The pandits were in ecstasy; they applauded vociferously; and the crowd followed them, deluded into the certainty that they had witnessed, that day, the last shred of the curtains of Truth torn to pieces before their eyes by a prodigy of intellect.

The king tried to goad his poet with keen glances, silently inciting him to make a final effort. But Shekhar took no notice, and remained fixed to his seat.

The king in anger came down from his throne — took off his pearl chain and put it on Pundarik's head. Everybody in the hall cheered. From the upper balcony came a slight sound of the movements of rustling robes and waist-chains hung with golden bells. Shekhar rose from his seat and left the hall.

It was a dark night of waning moon.

***Shekhar forgot his audience, forgot the trial of his strength with a rival. He stood alone amid his thoughts that rustled and quivered round him like leaves in a summer breeze, and sang the Song of the Flute.***

The poet Shekhar took down his MSS. from his shelves and heaped them on the floor. Some of them contained his earliest writings, which he had almost forgotten. They all seemed to him poor and trivial — mere words and childish rhymes!

One by one he tore his books to fragments, and threw them into a vessel containing fire, and said: "To thee, to thee, O my beauty, my fire! Thou hast been burning in my heart all these futile years. If my life were a piece of gold it would come out of its trial brighter, but it is a trodden turf of grass, and nothing remains of it but this handful of ashes."

The night wore on. Shekhar opened wide his windows. He spread upon his bed the white flowers that he loved, the jasmynes, tuberoses and chrysanthemums, and brought into his bedroom all the lamps he had in his house and lighted them. Then mixing with honey the juice of some poisonous root he drank it and lay down on his bed.

Golden anklets tinkled in the passage outside the door, and a subtle perfume came into the room with the breeze.

The poet, with his eyes shut, said: "My lady, have you taken pity upon your servant at last and come to see him?"

The answer came in a sweet voice "My poet, I have come."

Shekhar opened his eyes — and saw before his bed the figure of a woman.

His sight was dim and blurred. And it seemed to him that the image made of a shadow that he had ever kept throned in the secret shrine of his heart had come into the outer world in his last moment to gaze upon his face.

The woman said; "I am the Princess Ajita."

The poet with a great effort sat up on his bed.

The princess whispered into his ear: "The king has not done you justice. It was you who won at the combat, my poet, and I have come to crown you with the crown of victory."

She took the garland of flowers from her own neck, and put it on his hair, and the poet fell down upon his bed stricken by death.

## Freida Pinto in the list of world's most beautiful woman

Indian actress Freida Pinto is now being feted as a modern 'Helen of Troy' by *Vanity Fair* magazine which is conducting a poll to find the world's most beautiful woman. The magazine has given out a list of 19 names, out of which one will be adjudged the world's most beautiful woman. Although names of Hollywood superstars like Charlize Theron and Nicole Kidman are missing, the Indian beauty, who shot to international fame with her debut role in the multiple-Oscar-winning film, 'Slumdog Millionaire', has found a place on the list.



"Of the billions of women on this planet, only 19, we believe, could start wars. These modern-day Helens of Troy come from both hemispheres and include legends and ingenues," said the magazine about its chosen list.

The list is a eclectic mix of personalities. From Hollywood, actresses like Halle Berry, Cate Blanchett, Penelope Cruz, Scarlett Johansson, Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, made to the list.

Meanwhile, Pinto has also been voted as one of the top 10 sexiest women in the world by British lifestyle magazine *FHM*.

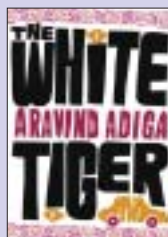
### Mickey-Donald comics set to hit Indian market

The world's most popular Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck comics books are being launched for the first time in India. These will be available both in Hindi and English. Disney Publishing Worldwide (India), a division of the Walt Disney Company (India), announced a licensing agreement with Indian publishing company Junior Diamond to publish Disney comic books in India. The comic books will be priced US50 cents and a new Mickey and Donald story would be released every month.



### 'White Tiger' to be made into a film

Call it a sort of sequel to the Oscar-winner 'Slumdog Millionaire'. Aravind Adiga's Man Booker winner *The White Tiger* will be made into a Hollywood film soon.



John Hart's newly formed Smuggler Films has acquired rights to *The White Tiger* as its first project, the Hollywood Reporter said.

*The White Tiger*, which became a best-seller, will be produced in association with Jolyon Symonds' and Nicholas Greene's Ascension Entertainment.

## Abhay Deol lectures at Wharton

From topics like multiplex versus single screen films to the new economy to Bollywood going global — Abhay Deol wowed the audience with his speech on various aspects of avant-garde cinema at the prestigious Wharton business school recently. "It was a fun experience. The audience was very receptive and excited. I didn't go with any theme in mind. I was asked questions about Bollywood. A lot of them were to do with how the industry has been up till now and about how it is changing rapidly,"

Abhay said. The actor gave the speech on March 21 at the Wharton School of the University Of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.



"We spoke of the 'multiplex' film versus the 'single screen' film, of the new economy, the new generation of film watchers, the possibility of Bollywood going global, and talent out there which is yet to be tapped," he added.

After Anurag Kashyap's 'Dev D', Abhay is being seen as the voice of a specific kind of niche avant-garde cinema.

### First US-shot Bengali film focusses on the disabled

Piyalir Password, the first Bengali film shot entirely in the United States, is all set to be screened in seven U.S. cities to create awareness about the plight of individuals with developmental disabilities in India.

The film which premiered at the Kreeger Auditorium in Maryland, on the outskirts of Washington recently, was screened in New Jersey on April 11 and in Detroit, San Francisco, Houston, Boston and Chicago thereafter.

"Through this wonderful film we were trying to create awareness among the Bengali com-

munity living here in the US," said the organizers, Center for Social Change, a non-profit serving individuals with developmental disabilities.



The 105-minute film scripted by Raj Basu and Soumitra Neogi is a fast-paced suspense thriller set in Maryland where a young woman comes from India to complete the legal formalities of her scientist sister's accidental death.

Directed by Raj Basu, the film has Vivek Banerjee's cinematography and music by Bikram Ghosh. Indian actors include Rituparna Sengupta, Rupa Ganguly and Kaushik Sen.

# CHIKKAMAGALURU: The original coffee country

**W**ith its natural marvels, Chikkamagaluru, the birthplace of coffee, welcomes you to the wonders of unexplored beauty, a place blessed with enchanting waterfalls, green forests, temples and strikingly beautiful sceneries.

Chikkamagaluru nestles peacefully at the foothills of Bababudangiri range in Karnataka. An exquisite town gifted with vivid green forestry, hilly terrains, unstoppable rivers and roaring waterfalls. The coffee blossoms and tea estates, which spread beyond the horizons, are amazing and a must see. The natives believe that Chikkamagaluru was given as a dowry to the younger daughter of Rukmangada, the legendary chief of Sakrepatna, which is near Kadur in Karnataka. Hence, the name 'Chikkamagaluru'.

Chikkamagaluru is the original coffee country. It was here that a well-known Muslim saint, Baba Budan, brought seven coffee seeds from Yemen in 1670 AD and sowed them at what from ancient times was called Chandra Drona Parvatha. Situated 28 km north of Chikmagalur town, the hill was later rechristened Bababudangiri hill.

Chikkamagaluru is home to the famous Mullayanagiri, the tallest peak of the state. At a height of 1,930

## Mesmerizing Waterfalls

**M**anikyadhara falls is near the famous pilgrim centre Baba Budan Giri Dattatreya Peetha where water spills down like small pearls, giving the visitors a memorable shower bath.

**Kallathigiri Falls:** Just 10 km from Kemmangundi is the Kallahathigiri falls (also known as Kalahasti falls). This waterfall cascades down from the top of the Chandra Drona hill from a height of 122 meters amidst fascinating scenery.

**Hebbe falls:** This beautiful waterfall is over 10 km from the famous hill station, Kemmangundi. Here water streams down from a height of 168 meters in two stages to form Dodda Hebbe (Big falls) and Chikka Hebbe (Small falls).



metres above sea level, it is the highest peak between the Himalayas and the Nilgiris. The height offers an excellent vantage to view exquisite sunsets. The small temple nestling at the top creates an ambience of utter peace.

The refreshingly cool waterfalls of Chikkamagaluru draw huge numbers of tourists every year.

On the Bababudangiri range of hills is the hill station 'Kemmangundi', at a height of 1,434 meters. The Wodeyar king, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV (1884-1940), had made this place his favorite summer camp. About 38 km northwest of Chikmagalur is the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, which was earlier called Jagara valley Game Reserve. The region covers an area of nearly 500 sq km and is blessed with rich flora and fauna.

Kuduremukha, a steel-manufacturing hub, is located 95 km south-west of Chikkamagaluru town. A side view of the mountain gives a 'horse-face' like feature.

That's why it is known as Kuduremukha, which literally means 'horse-face' in Kannada. Kuduremukha receives an average annual rainfall of 7,000 mm and its dense forest is home to a variety of wild animals.

About 90 km west of Chikkamagaluru town, is Sringeri on the banks of Tunga. This is the place where Hindu philosopher Adi Shankaracharya founded his first monastery.

The temples here reflect remarkable architectural excellence. Temples of note are the Sri Sharadamba temple, founded by Sri Adi Shankaracharya and the Amritheshwara temple built by the Hoysala ruler Veera Ballala II. ■

## ■ India Votes



Women voters standing in a queue to cast their votes at a polling booth in Dimapur, Nagaland, during India's Parliamentary elections on April 16. Nearly 714 million voters will exercise their franchise in a five-phased electoral process to elect the 15th Lok Sabha, India's Lower House.

### 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)

### CONSULATES

Consulate General of India  
3 East, 64th Street  
New York  
N.Y. 10021

Tel: 212-774-0600

Fax: 212-861-3788

E-mail:

[indiacgny@aol.com](mailto:indiacgny@aol.com)

Website:

[www.indianconsulateny.org](http://www.indianconsulateny.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:

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

Consulate General of India  
1990 Post Oak Blvd. # 600  
3 Post Oak Central  
Houston, TX 77056

Tel. 713-626-2148/49

Fax. 713-626-2450

E-mail:

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

Website:

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

Printed and Published by the Press & Information Office, Embassy of India, 2107 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, D.C., 20008

Content, design and production by IANS. [www.ianspublishing.com](http://www.ianspublishing.com)

### EMBASSY OF INDIA

2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel: 202-939-7000

Fax: 202-462-7276

**FIRST CLASS**

**First Class  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Silver Spring, MD  
Permit No.  
3966**