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President Calderon Congratulates Prime Minister Singh

President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa sent a message of congratulations to Dr. Manmohan Singh on his re-election as the Prime Minister of India, following the resounding victory of the coalition UPA led by Dr. Singh's Congress party, in the general elections held last May. Dr. Singh in his reply to President Calderon conveyed: "Thank you for your message of congratulations on my re-election as the Prime Minister of India. As we embark upon the task of fulfilling the mandate given to us by the people of India, I look forward to further strengthening the close and friendly bilateral relations that exist between India and Mexico, which have received a fresh impetus following your successful visit to India in 2007, and the visit of our President to Mexico in 2008."

India's New Envoy to Guatemala

H.E. Mr. Dinesh Kumar Jain, India's Ambassador to Mexico, is now concurrently also the next Ambassador of India to Guatemala with residence in Mexico City.

Credentials Presented in Belize

He is also India's High Commissioner to Belize, and, on June 15 in Belmopan, presented his Credentials to the Governor General of Belize, H.E. Sir Colville Young, Jr., in an elegant ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Jain conveyed President Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil's warm, friendly greetings and best wishes for continued well-being, progress and prosperity of the people of Belize, in consonance with the two countries enjoying the best of friendly relations, founded securely on mutual regard, understanding, and cooperation, which the recently reconstituted Government of India remains keen as ever to expand, deepen and diversify. Both countries are proud inheritors of rich, ancient cultures, share democratic convictions, and commitment to a peaceful world order, and are members of the UN, NAM, and the Commonwealth, and as such consult and collaborate together for promoting global peace and security, and socio-economic development. High Commissioner reiterated commitment to continuing and expanding India's cooperation to Belize, for capacity building, IT, knowledge-based industry, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, and disaster management. In addition, India's rapidly growing economy, strides in hi-tech areas, and the enterprising spirit of her people, offer much potential for bilateral private-sector cooperation, projects and joint ventures. In this context a more dynamic exchange of visits at all levels - political, parliamentarians, officials, business, media, academics, tourists - is important. He was glad to note that the Indian origin community in Belize, a vibrant, symbiotic linkage between the two countries, was well integrated in its pluralistic society, and their useful contribution to the development and progress of Belize was duly recognized. Sir Colville extended his best wishes to the new Envoy, and expressed the hope that the bilateral relations would grow rapidly during his tenure. Later, Amb. Jain called on Prime Minister Dean Barrow, Deputy Prime Minister Gaspar Vega, Minister of National Security & Actg. Foreign Minister Carlos Perdomo, and Minister of Economy Erwin Contreras. He also had two separate meetings with Indian community representatives.

Embassy's Film Shows

On Wednesday, the 10th June, the Embassy of India in Mexico launched its latest initiative, designed to bridge information gap between the peoples of Mexico and India and bring them closer, by holding a film show in the Embassy Auditorium, open to all. The first screening included a film on India's recent national elections, an unprecedented, mammoth exercise involving 714 million eligible voters, 58% of whom exercised their franchise to re-elect Congress-led UPA coalition government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister, and an eponymous feature film 'The Namesake' based on an acclaimed book by celebrated India-American author, Jhumpa Lahiri. The second screening was held on June 24, showing a film on Lord Buddha and Buddhism, followed by the film 'Monsoon Wedding' by well-known Director, Mira Nair. The film shows are being held 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, cordially welcoming all Mexicans in particular. Most films are either in Spanish or sub-titled in Spanish.

TCS/Patni Open New Centres in Mexico

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Indian information technology giant, opened its third global delivery centre in Mexico and seventh in Latin America, in Queretaro. The company would hire 500 people to work at the new centre, which would provide advanced IT services, consultancy, test factory, business process outsourcing, contact center, IT infrastructure solutions, industrial & engineering services, and solutions based on exclusive TCS products to existing and potential customers. The other two Mexican centres are in Mexico, D.F. and Guadalajara. TCS established its operations in Mexico in 2003, and already serves more than 30 local clients in addition to international clients across various industries.

India's Patni Computer Systems, a leading global IT and BPO services provider, also opened a new delivery center in Queretaro, to augment its global delivery capabilities and serve the North and Latin American markets. The Center is to offer a full range of services and solutions covering IT consulting, software development outsourcing, contact center operations and business process outsourcing. According to the company sources, they chose Mexico to take advantage of the country's strategic location, low costs, improved economic prospects, language skills and other business benefits. Starting with 100 full-time workers, Patni plans to gradually expand employment to about 300, with mostly local workers.

PM in Russia for SCO / BRIC Summits

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led the Indian delegation to Yekaterinburg, Russia from June 15-17, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, followed by the first stand-alone Summit meeting of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) leaders. He also had bilateral meetings with President Hu Jintao of China, President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Zardari of Pakistan, and President Medvedev of Russia. Speaking to the media after the visit, he said it was an intense and productive visit, which had reinforced his sense of the significance of India's engagement with the world, particularly at this time of economic crisis and

political change. Central Asia, where the SCO (India is an Observer) is active, is part of India's extended neighbourhood, and India looks forward to increased functional cooperation with the SCO. The BRIC Summit discussed the need to intensify cooperation among them, in times of rapid economic change when the BRIC economies are a factor of stability and growth. India has borne the global economic crisis well, though not unaffected. There was general agreement on the need to continue India's coordination in BRIC on economic matters, to seek implementation of G-20 decisions of interest to developing countries, and reform of present systems of global governance and the international financial system. In the meeting with President Hu Jintao, they reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and recommitted themselves to carrying forward the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership that was established in 2005. With President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, both expressed satisfaction at the rapid expansion of proposals for bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including energy, petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. With President Medvedev, he exchanged views on their unique and close strategic partnership, with both looking forward to its rapid development in the future.

Speaking at the BRIC Summit plenary, PM recalled the G-20 deliberations on the global financial and economic downturn, much more severe than anticipated earlier, and the agreements on several short term measures, among others, to infuse greater liquidity, greater capital flows to developing countries, for improvement in the regulatory and supervisory structure for the world's financial system, on developing an effective early warning system for the global financial stability, against protectionism and restrictions on the free flow of trade and persons, and on the heightened importance of an early completion of the Doha Round of talks keeping in mind its development dimension. The important issue now is to implement those decisions. The BRIC countries should keep in contact with each other in the run up to the next G-20 Leaders Summit in Pittsburgh. Their cooperation in the G-20 process must be backed up by cooperation in the real economy, in trade, investments, science & technology, energy, agriculture, aviation, pharmaceuticals and services.

The BRIC leaders adopted a Joint Statement and a Statement on Global Food Security providing a road-map for their future work. The Joint Statement called upon all states and relevant international bodies to act vigorously to implement the decisions adopted at the G20 Summit in London in April. The group reiterated its commitment for reform of international financial institutions so as to reflect changes in the world economy in which emerging and developing economies must have greater voice and representation in international financial institutions. It urged the international community to keep the multilateral trading system stable, curb trade protectionism, and push for comprehensive and balanced results of the WTO's Doha Development Agenda. It also called upon the developed countries to fulfill their commitment of 0.7% of Gross National Income for the Official Development Assistance and make further efforts in increasing assistance, debt relief, market access and technology transfer for developing countries. It strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations and reiterated that there can be no justification for any act of terrorism anywhere or for whatever reasons and called for urgent adoption of the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism currently under the consideration of the UN General Assembly. The next BRIC summit will be hosted by Brazil in 2010.

On Global Food Security, the BRIC leaders recognized that the fluctuations of global food prices coupled with the global financial crisis was threatening global food security, and noted that the developed and developing countries should address the food security issue according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The developed countries should provide financial and technology support for developing countries in the field of food production capacity. Restricted market access and trade-distorting subsidies in developed countries hampered the development of food production capacity in developing countries. Ensuring food security requires a well-functioning world market and trade system for food and agriculture based on the principles of fairness and non-discrimination. In this regard, it is of paramount importance to accelerate the Doha round of talks in order to find compromise solutions for radical reductions of multi-billion subsidies in the agricultural sector, which distort terms of trade and prevent developing countries from increasing their agricultural production.

Earlier, at the SCO Summit, Dr. Singh emphasized that India's relations with the region went back in time and rested on solid civilisational, cultural and economic linkages that flourished over the centuries. He said, "we wish to see peace, prosperity and stability in the region that the Organisation represents. The threats we face to our security are global in nature, and require a global response...we believe that with the resources available with us, the SCO and India can mutually reinforce each other's efforts towards the economic emancipation of our region. We would welcome closer cooperation in the fields of energy and food security, and infrastructure development...The spectre of terrorism, extremist ideologies and illicit drug trafficking haunts our region. Terrorist crimes committed today are transnational in nature. No country is immune from them. It is imperative that we genuinely cooperate with one another and on a global scale to resolutely defeat international terrorism. The issue of stability in Afghanistan is one that is engaging all of us keenly. India is committed to contributing to international efforts for the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan, and promoting stability in that country".

India's Call for Peace With Pakistan

When PM met President Zardari of Pakistan, they discussed India-Pakistan relations, "which remain under considerable stress. The primary cause of this, as everyone knows, is the terrorist attacks against India from Pakistani territory". PM "conveyed to President Zardari the full extent of our expectation that the Government of Pakistan take strong and effective action to prevent the use of Pakistan's territory for terrorist attacks against India, act against the perpetrators of past attacks and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan. The President of Pakistan told me of Pakistan's efforts to deal with this menace and the difficulties that they face." They agreed that their Foreign Secretaries would discuss what

Pakistan is doing and can do to prevent terrorism from Pakistan against India and to bring those responsible for these attacks to justice including the horrendous crime of the attacks in Mumbai. They would report back to their leaders, for them to take stock of the situation, at Sharm el Sheikh for the Nonaligned Summit in mid-July. PM recalled his vision of a cooperative subcontinent, and of the vital interest that India and the people of the subcontinent have in peace. This needs trying again to make peace with Pakistan, also effective and strong action against the enemies of peace. "If the leaders of Pakistan have the courage, determination and statesmanship to take the high road to peace, India will meet them more than half-way. These were the ideas and sentiments that I shared with the President of Pakistan."

Separately, taking a strong stand on terrorism, PM said that his government would show zero tolerance towards terrorism and was determined to end it. He urged Islamabad to dismantle the terror infrastructure on its soil and bring to justice those behind the Mumbai terrorist attacks last year. Reiterating this stand, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna ruled out resumption of dialogue with Pakistan until it took "concrete measures" to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism that was conceiving and executing violent activities against India. He referred to the release of Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed to prove that "this only shows that Pakistan is not serious about terror and all that terror spells out". India made it clear that it had no intention of standing in judgment of the Pakistani legal process, but it wanted the conspirators of crimes against India to be prosecuted.

Responding to Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's remarks that the Kashmir issue "holds the key to durable peace in the region", EAM strongly rejected Pakistan's attempt to link Kashmir issue to terrorism in the region and maintained that the bilateral dialogue would resume only when Islamabad created conditions for it. Pointing out that Kashmir is a part of the composite dialogue that India initiated with Pakistan in January 2004, Krishna underlined that "it is in Pakistan's court to create conditions for the dialogue to be resumed". The composite dialogue was suspended by India after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai carried out by terrorists based in Pakistan.

A special court in Mumbai issued non-bailable warrants against 22 absconding Pakistanis wanted in connection with the 26/11 terrorist attacks. Only one Pakistani citizen, Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, is currently in custody and undergoing trial for his role in the 26/11 attacks. His nine accomplices were gunned down during the 60-hour operations by the combined security forces during November 26-28 last year. Investigations by various Indian agencies, Kasab's confession and intelligence inputs have pointed to the involvement of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the shootout that claimed more than 166 lives.

In a separate development, Home Minister P. Chidambaram said that the government was considering withdrawal of troops from the inhabited areas of Jammu & Kashmir and making the local police responsible for internal security in the region. He said that the army was responsible for guarding

the borders, stopping infiltration and countering terrorism and the government would like the army to do it in areas far away from towns and cities.

Taliban, Not India, Real Threat: Zardari

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari acknowledged that India is not a military threat to Pakistan, rather it is the Taliban which is threatening peace in the region as well as in the whole world. Zardari said both India and Pakistan do not have any ill-feelings against each other, and both the countries have good intentions.

India for Shared Peace, Prosperity and Security

Addressing members of the Diplomatic Corps in Delhi on June 8, External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said that "a peaceful extended neighbourhood and a supportive international environment remains our fundamental foreign policy objective". He said that India "is committed to working with all countries for shared peace, prosperity and security", adding that "India, as a responsible power, does and will engage actively with the world, while pursuing an independent and non-aligned foreign policy of peace and development, as well as strengthening her strategic autonomy...India has an abiding interest in the stability and prosperity of our neighbours. We also believe that a prosperous and economically vibrant India is an asset and opportunity for our region". He said, "India has consistently supported the peaceful resolution of the conflict in West Asia in a manner that would result in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel...**Our efforts to cultivate stronger bonds with countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region have borne impressive results in recent years. We will work towards bringing the region closer to us politically, with even more intensified contact. There are still enormous opportunities waiting to be explored and utilized...**We wish to further consolidate our relations with our friends in North America, with whom we share many commonalities and complementarities. Russia and Central Asian countries occupy an important place in India's foreign policy. The India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi last year has created a new architecture for the India-Africa partnership in the 21st century...and our support to Africa's economic well-being and to peace and security in the continent will remain unflinching and will be further intensified...EU is not only India's largest trading partner but also one of our major sources of investment. India and the EU are indispensable poles in the emerging multi-polar world...In our strides towards economic progress, Asia in general and East and Southeast Asia in particular, continues to be a natural partner for enabling complementarities...and its importance is reflected in our "Look East" policy, which is built on a strong economic foundation and a cooperative paradigm of converging security interests."

India, EU Indispensable For Multipolar World

Addressing the media at the end of 20th India-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting at Prague on June 29, External Affairs Minister S M Krishna said India greatly valued its interactions with EU with which it has a strategic partnership. He said that India and the EU were indispensable elements in a

multi-polar structure and their strategic partnership, based on shared values and commitment to democracy, freedom, pluralism and multilateralism would be important in addressing the daunting global challenges. He underlined that holding of annual Summits between India and the EU reflected the importance both sides placed on this relationship. Krishna also announced that the next India-EU Summit would be in New Delhi on November 6, 2009.

India-US Relations Headed To The Next Level

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that the India-US relationship needed to move to version "3.0", in IT parlance. She said the social and economic linkages between the two countries far outstripped the official and political. Clinton, who is set to visit India in July, said she hoped the two nations could work together to solve global challenges from climate change to securing Afghanistan. She spelt out four big benchmarks, global security, human development, economic activity, and science & technology for launching the third phase of the US-India relationship. She said that the bilateral cooperation in fighting terrorism and improved intelligence-sharing was an area that had improved immeasurably since the Mumbai attacks. She committed the Obama administration to implementing the Civil Nuclear Agreement with India. Earlier US Under Secretary of State William Burns said in Delhi that India was a major foreign policy priority for his country and New Delhi would be a crucial global partner of Washington in the 21st century.

Bretton Woods Institutions Reform Needed

Addressing the Plenary Meeting of the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development in New York on June 25, Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, said that specific responses to the financial and economic crisis must address both short-term needs, as well as the longer-term imperatives of reforming structures of global governance, including at the UN and at the Bretton Woods Institutions ...to reflect contemporary realities. She emphasized that the global financial and economic crisis was the result of a failure of global regulatory and supervisory mechanisms, excessive speculation and excessive risk taking...and that developing countries were not the cause of this crisis, but they are amongst its worst affected victims. While India will be able to manage, many other developing countries may not be in the same position...so we must ensure that countries hurt by the massive withdrawal of private capital that has taken place, are able to rely upon an increased flow of resources from the international financial institutions. In this context, it is particularly necessary that we should not permit protectionist tendencies, not just protectionism of trade in goods, but also protectionism in free flow of persons, protectionism in financial services as well as imposition of non-tariff barriers, to succeed in our response measures.

India Warns Against Trade Barriers

India has asked the US and other countries to show flexibility in reopening the stalled Doha round of talks so that an early and fair world trade accord can be reached. Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma warned

against protectionist measures resorted to by developed countries saying those measures would further deepen recession and delay a recovery in the world economy. The Doha Round of talks were stalled in July 2008 amid differences between the US and India-representing the developing world. India wants special safeguards for developing countries to protect their agricultural sectors.

Climate Change Negotiations; Amendment to Kyoto Protocol Sought

India once again resisted pressure from industrialized nations to endorse a declaration which would require industrialized nations and emerging economies such as India and China to halve emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. But developing countries, including India, China, and Brazil, did not adopt that 2050 goal at the G-8 summit at Hokkaido in Japan, where they were invited, arguing that the rich nations first have to set tough 2020 cuts for themselves. The proposal was put forth by the US and some others during climate change negotiations among the 17-nation Major Economies Forum (MEF) in Mexico (Cuernavaca) and is yet to be agreed upon by the group. Mitigation targets remained the most contentious issue in the meeting. While the developed world is talking about long-term action by major economies, there is hardly any development on the mid-term mitigation targets by them.

Earlier, India joined together at Bonn on June 12 with 36 other developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America, to move an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol which would ensure that developed countries commit themselves to GHG emission reduction targets which are considered the minimum required in view of the enormity of the challenge that the world confronts from climate change. The target set is for at least a 40% aggregate reduction for 2020 with 1990 as a base year. In addition, the amendment sets out indicative targets for individual developed countries based on the principle of historical responsibility since the industrial revolution began in 1850 till 2005. The objective of this initiative is to hasten the pace of negotiations on this key element in the Bali Road Map.

Nirupama Rao Next Foreign Secretary

Nirupama Rao, India's Ambassador to China, will be the next Foreign Secretary of India after the incumbent Shivshankar Menon retires at the end of July. Rao joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1973 and was Ambassador to Peru and Sri Lanka, and also India's first woman spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, among her other assignments. She will be the second woman Foreign Secretary of India, after Chokila Iyer who had earlier been India's Ambassador to Mexico.

Prime Minister Chalks Out 100-Day Plan

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has spelt out a 100-day plan for the new government under his leadership. Even as the world struggles to find a way out of the recessionary vortex, India is thinking of keeping its high growth rate from flagging. The Prime Minister is aiming for a 9-10% growth based on a high savings rate of 35%. He made it clear that a 'mere 7%' growth would be wholly unsatisfactory. The top priorities of the 100-day plan are:

reviving economy, ensuring food security by enacting National Food Security Act, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to be expanded from 100 days work per family to 100 days per individual, financial sector reforms and divestment in state-owned companies, relaxation of FDI norms, infusion of more capital into banks, and implementation of big infrastructure projects under the ambitious Bharat Nirman Project for providing of jobs. The government will also ease the woes of the sectors worst hit by the economic downturn, especially exports, textiles, housing, IT, automobiles, infrastructure, etc. The government has set a 4% growth for agriculture and a double-digit growth rate for manufacturing. It also plans to set up a National Council for Higher Education to create an autonomous education system. The deregulation of oil prices is on the cards.

India Growth Improves Prospects

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said India would achieve an economic growth of at least 7% this fiscal, and promised more resources for areas like infrastructure and public services. Speaking in the Parliament, he said, "I don't promise you we won't be affected by the international conditions, but we will be able to achieve a growth rate of 8-9%, even when the world grows at a lower rate". The Prime Minister said the reason behind his optimism was that India's savings rate, which determines the money that can be deployed for development projects, was still high at 35% of GDP.

Montek S. Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, reiterated PM's view that India would return to 8-9% growth in the medium term, since the country is on a strong wicket on many fronts. Once the global economy starts to recover, the return on capital will also be higher in an economy like India, which is poised to grow faster than its western counterparts. He added that the entry of US\$5 b into the country in the past two months is a clear sign of easing capital flow.

The World Bank has projected an 8% growth for India in 2010, which will make it the fastest-growing economy for the first time, overtaking China's expected 7.7% growth. It has also revised upwards the growth rate for the Indian economy this year to 5.1% from an earlier projection of 4%. Barring a few countries, including India and China, the Bank has cut 2009 growth projections for all other economies and expects the world economy to contract by 2.9% this year. Despite the gloomy picture for this year, the Bank says growth in developing countries, led by India and China, could reach 4.4% in 2010 and 5.7% by 2011.

In its semi-annual economic outlook, the **Paris-based OECD** projected a growth of 5.9% for India in the current financial year ending March 2010 and 7.2% for fiscal 2010-11, an upward revision of 160 basis points and 140 basis points, respectively. In a separate report, Citigroup forecast a 6.8% rise in the Indian economy during 2009-10, higher than its earlier forecast of 5.5%.

Morgan Stanley's Asia Chairman, Stephen S. Roach said that India could actually outperform the Asia region by a margin. He said that for the first time he was optimistic on prospects for India than for China due to impressive improvements in macro developments, higher savings rate, increased FDI, and in infrastructure's share of the GDP. He said that a large collection of world-class companies, extraordinary entrepreneurs, well-developed markets, and an educated workforce, act in India's favour. The recent election result, he said, improved the prospects for reforms on a number of fronts that may lead to higher growth in India.

Spending by the government and strong growth in agriculture and services industries helped the Indian economy grow at 5.8% in the quarter that ended in March, and at 6.9% in the last financial year (April'08-March'09). The industry now expects the economy to expand faster. India's good show and expectations are in sharp contrast with the world economy, which is expected to contract by 2.6% in 2009, according to the UN Report on World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009. In India, sectors like construction, trade, hotels, transport and communication, financing, real estate and business services grew by over 5% in the last quarter. The overall growth got a boost from the 13% jump in the expansion of community services, 9% in transport and communications sectors, and 7.8% in financial and other services sector.

A survey by the **All India Management Association (AIMA)** showed that Corporate India is optimistic about improvement in the country's economic situation in the next 18 months and believes developing nations will become more powerful as a fallout of the global slowdown. As many as 61% of Indian managers are bullish about the economy, while just about 7% are pessimistic, as per the survey conducted among 450 middle-level managers across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, automobile, energy and power, telecom and IT.

In April, the first month of the current fiscal, six core industries together clocked the fastest growth rate in 10 months. Ministry of Commerce & Industry reported that power, crude oil, refinery products, coal, cement and finished steel grew 4.3% year-on-year, recovering from the low of 1.1% in December 2008. The April figures have raised hopes of a brighter industrial output, as these six industries have a combined weightage of 26.7% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The direct tax collections also rose 17% as a result. Cement output increased 11.6% in May, indicating robust demand from the construction industry, whose growth was halted by the credit crisis last year. Six core infrastructure industries expanded by 2.8% in May against 3.1% in the same month last year. Cement output, which is the barometer for construction industry expansion, led the performance chart, followed by coal (10.2%) and electricity (3.3%). This is the second month in a row that cement sector growth stayed above 11%. Electricity generation grew a phenomenal 7.1%. Eleven out of the seventeen industry groups showed positive growth during April as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

India's leading car and motorcycle makers reported strong annual rises in May sales, adding to a growing view that the economy may be improving after a run of aggressive interest rate cuts and stimulus steps. Maruti Suzuki India, India's top car maker, reported its May sales rose 15.8% from a year earlier. The Indian unit of South Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor Co. said while its annual sales rose by 8.4%, its annual exports registered a growth of 27.8%. Leading two-wheeler maker Hero Honda said sales in May rose 22.5% from a year earlier.

According to the **Society of India Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM)**, exports of passenger cars increased by 41.64% in May. The export growth was largely driven by the country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India as its sales grew 90.69% compared with the same month a year ago. The country's largest-exporter Hyundai Motor India reported a jump of 27.77% in exports during May compared with the same month in 2008.

India's FMCG industry is set to grow between 20-30% in 2009-10, up from 10-20% in 2008-09. Experts feel that the growth will be driven by the launch of new products and increasing rural consumption. For instance, the beverage industry as a whole is estimated to grow at 17%, and Coca Cola India Ltd continued to report growth for an eleventh straight quarter. Another FMCG company Emami Ltd posted 20% growth in 2008-09.

The **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** expanded for the second consecutive month in May, as manufacturers reported higher new orders because of revival in domestic demand. The index, which gets responses from purchasing managers in 500 industrial companies, increased to 55.1 in May, compared with 53.3 in the preceding month. A reading above 50 indicates expansion of that particular variable, while a reading below 50 indicates an overall decrease. The employment index crossed the threshold 50-level mark for the first time in 2009 because of new orders, ending a five-month period of retrenchment.

According to a report by the brokerage firm, **SMC Capitals**. India Inc mobilized US\$ 991.4 m during April-May 2009 due to revival in market sentiments and is this capital raising activity is set to gain further momentum. Fund raising through various instruments like rights issues, initial public offers (IPOs) and qualified institutional placements (QIPs) during the first two months of 2009-10 rose by over five-fold to US\$ 991.4m than the first two months of 2008-09.

Stock M-Cap Crosses Trillion Dollar

The recent bounce-back in the stock markets has helped India's market capitalization (m-cap) touch the US\$1 trillion mark again. As a result, India is back among the Top 10 in world m-cap rankings. Now, India's m-cap is the ninth largest at \$1.04t. It has overtaken Brazil, Switzerland and Australia in the last two-and a-half months. The m-cap was at its peak at \$1.89t in January 2008. During this period, India outperformed the rest of the world in value appreciation. India's share as a proportion of the total world m-cap increased from 1.98% to 2.79%.

India Inc Hire Most Globally

The latest global Manpower Employment Outlook Survey revealed that India continues to report the highest labour hiring expectations globally since the third quarter of 2008. While job-seekers around the world will see sluggish hiring pace this year, in countries like India, a greater percentage of employers are saying they will hold on to the staff they have. In India, around 19% employers have positive recruitment plans for the next three months, also known as the Net Employment Outlook, which is based on the difference between those who plan to add jobs and those who expect to cut them. Manpower India's Managing Director Naresh Malhan said that the Indian labour market has handled the global economic slowdown much better than other emerging and developed economies globally.

PTA to Boost India-Mercosur Trade

With a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) of India with the Mercosur (South American Common Market) coming into effect from June 1, the combined trade between India and the South American bloc is expected to more than double to US\$10 b in the next five years. Mercosur (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) is the largest integrated market after the EU and NAFTA. India and Mercosur have agreed to reduce duty by 10 to 100 per cent on 450 products that are traded. Among the member nations, India has the highest volume of trade with Brazil. With the possible inclusion of Venezuela, a leading oil seller, in Mercosur, the trade volume is expected to increase further substantially.

India Inc Contribution to US Economy

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said in Washington that Indian firms had contributed US\$105 b to the US economy between 2004 and 2007 apart from creating 300,000 jobs. In his address at the US-India Business Council (USIBC) summit, Sharma cited the findings of a study on India Inc's role in the US and said India and the US were "partners in progress".

A joint study by FICCI and Ernst & Young said that thousands of Americans managed to save their jobs during the economic downturn as Indian corporates went on a major acquisition drive in the US and acquired 143 US firms across various sectors during the last two years. While 94 deals were concluded in 2007-08, in the following year when the economy was on the downturn, Indians bought as many as 50 US entities that were on the verge of closure, saving thousands of jobs. Tata Chemicals, Wipro, Reliance Communications, and Firstsource Solutions were some of the Indian entities that were involved in bailing out US companies. The report said that IT & ITeS, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals were the prime sectors in which most of the deals were formalized. According to RBI data, in 2007-08 the total outbound investments of Indian companies amounted to US\$18 b.

FDI, FII Investments Grow Sharply

The FDI inflows into India in April stood at US\$2.34 b, compared with US\$ 1.96 b in March, registering a growth of 19.3%. This signals confidence in India's economy by foreign investors amid the global financial crisis. In the last fiscal, India attracted a total of US\$ 27.3 b FDI due to robust trends in

the first six months of 2008-09, as against US\$ 24.5 b in 2007-08. Experts believe that the foreign investment inflow is expected to improve further with the revival of the domestic stock markets.

As a further endorsement of the country's promise, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) pumped in US\$4 b into the equity market in the month of May, the highest in 19 months. Krishnamurthy Vijayan, CEO, JP Morgan AMC said, "Post-elections, the concerns surrounding the reforms and growth story have been addressed, and we believe that most of the global emerging market funds that were underweight on India have increased their weightage, leading to an increased flow. We also believe that there will be strong flow of capital in India both from FDIs and FIIs." This confidence helped drive up the market by 28.3% in May, the highest single-month gain by the Sensex since March 1992 when it rose 55%.

Richard Pinder, chief of world's leading advertising agency, **Publicis Worldwide**, emphasized the importance of India as one of the few growth markets and said that his company wanted to double the size of business and be among the top five advertising agencies in the country. He said that last year India was one of the fastest growing markets for Publicis worldwide, and this year it is one of the very few places in the world that is seeing any growth. Publicis Worldwide is among the top 10 advertising agencies in India, at number seven in terms of revenues and number three in terms of creativity.

...As India Attracts Further Investments

US-based helicopter manufacturer **Sikorsky Aircraft** said it had signed a US\$350m agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd to manufacture helicopter cabins in a new greenfield facility in Hyderabad. The first Sikorsky 19-seater S-92 cabin is scheduled for delivery in late 2010. Sikorsky President Jeffrey P. Pino said the US-based subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. is tapping into India's work force in India's growing aerospace market. Ratan N. Tata, chairman of parent company Tata Sons, said the manufacture of the S-92 cabin in India is a "significant first step in the growth of India as a global hub for aerospace manufacturing". S-92 helicopters perform search and rescue missions, transport oil workers to offshore platforms and other assignments.

U.S. automaker **General Motors** said its expansion plans were on track in India despite the troubles it faces in the United States. General Motors entered the Indian market in 2003, and sold nearly 66,000 cars last year, up 10% over the previous year. Last year, the company commissioned a new plant with a capacity to produce 140,000 cars and said it had no plans to reduce its 40,000-strong staff in India. General Motors is not the only global automaker, companies such as BMW, Nissan, Honda, Toyota, Ford, Nissan and Audi have also made investments in the country, hoping to gain a foothold in the expanding Indian car market.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd, the Indian unit of Japan's Toyota Motor Corp, said it expected to start production at its second car plant in Bangalore by the end of 2010 where it is investing about US\$680 m.

According to its Managing Director, H. Nakagawa, the company hopes to sell more than 50,000 units in the country in the current fiscal. Last year it sold 51,500 vehicles in India. Toyota holds 89% in the Indian venture with an annual production capacity of 60,000 units from its first factory in the southern State of Karnataka. Its second plant will have a capacity of 100,000 units a year. Including the fresh investment, Toyota's total investment in India will go up to US\$1.1 b by December 2016.

Masahiro Takedagawa, President and CEO of **Honda Siel Cars India** (HSCI), feels that his company can record double-digit growth this year, owing to an improving economy and continuous government effort to boost spending. He said that while there was a huge slump in the sale of Honda products in the US (from 7m to 1m), its two-wheeler business in India continued to post a remarkable growth. He said that the motorcycle business appeared quite stable in Asia because of India.

French carmaker Renault has completely recast its plans for India as part of a new, aggressive approach that will see it producing cars in its Chennai plant by 2011. Marc Nassif, Renault's Country General Manager in India said, "It is important for us to speed up our activities in India because we do not have the luxury of time now". According to him, the company has a clear roadmap for the future and is here for the long haul. The Chennai facility is a joint venture of Renault and Nissan. **Renault-Nissan Automotive India**, a 50:50 JV for passenger car project in the southern city of Chennai, is eyeing 5.7% of the market share in India by 2012, assessing the Indian car growth market to go past the 2m unit mark by 2012. Renault and Nissan also have a joint venture with Bajaj Auto for an ultra-low cost (ULC) car that is scheduled to debut in 2011 at a base price tag of US\$3000.

Mercedes-Benz India's MD & CEO, Wilfred Aulbur said that future prospects for his company, and the auto sector in general, looked good in India with a stable new government in power. He said that the company was expecting around 10% sales growth in the next one year, and also planned to expand its network across the country. Predicting increase in demand in future, the company invested US\$ 55 m in their manufacturing unit in Pune, which has the capacity of manufacturing 5,000 cars along with 2,400 commercial vehicles every year. Mercedes-Benz entered the Indian market in 1995 and now has presence in over 25 cities.

German automotive component company Bosch said it had no plan to scale down its investment in India due to the global economic environment. This was reflected in the company's latest commitment of US\$ 25 m to set up manufacturing units for electronic control units (ECU) in Bangalore.

Dupont, one of the world's top five seed companies, acquired Nandi Seeds and the cotton germplasm business of Nagarjuna Seeds in India, hoping to target the country's \$275m-a-year cotton seed market and marking its maiden entry into the cotton seed business worldwide. India is the world's second-largest producer and consumer of cotton. Significantly, with this deal, DuPont India will now sell dominant-player Monsanto's Bacillus

thuringiensis (Bt) cotton through Nandi Seeds, which has a licence from Monsanto India to use BT technology to produce cotton seeds here. The US\$10m acquisition of Nandi, through DuPont India's subsidiary Pioneer Seeds, will give DuPont an easy entry into a cash crop that has seen yields grow manifold over the past six years. This is the latest in a series of investments by DuPont in India.

As part of the cost-cutting measures to combat global recession, **German and UK-based biotech companies** plan to outsource more work, transfer technology and tap India's burgeoning biotechnology market. Martin Pohle, consultant Bio Mitteldeutschland GmbH, said that several companies plan to bring in over US\$100 m investments to India this year and set up production facilities here. CMD of Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw said that the Indian bio-tech industry was poised to grow by 18% in FY09 to US\$2.8 b from US\$2 b FY08. Among the companies which are planning investments in India are Germany's Biobase GmbH, UK-based Oxygen Healthcare (O2H), and Britain's Institute of Pharmaceutical Innovations (IPI).

Luxury hotel chain **Marriott International** will open 24 new hotels in India over the next three years. The company, which largely operates through management contracts, has already sealed the deal for the properties with real estate developers. Marriott will launch six properties this year. Rajeev Menon, Marriott International's Vice-President for India, Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan, said their focus for expansion will be pan-India. Recently, a number of international hotel companies like MGM Mirage Hospitality, Wyndham Hotel Group, Langham Hotel International, Corinthia Hotels & Resorts, Jumeriah Group, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts, Swissotel Hotels & Resorts and Hampshire Hotels & Resorts have either indicated their plans to enter India, or made announcements about expansion.

PepsiCo announced that it was going to double its investment in its Indian beverage business over the next three years by making an investment of over US\$220 m to increase the capacity of its business. Of the proposed US\$220 m investment, PepsiCo India will put in \$170 m, while the remaining US\$50 m would be invested by its bottling partners.

Bharti Wal-Mart, the JV between Bharti Enterprises and retail giant Wal-Mart, which opened its first wholesale store in India at Amritsar, announced that it would invest over US\$100 m in setting up 15 more such outlets in the next 3-4 years.

Lotte India Corporation, subsidiary of South Korean Multinational giant Lotte Confectionery Ltd has decided to invest US\$ 42 m for setting up a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant confectionery plant in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Lotte Confectionery's annual Sales are over US\$ 900 m and apart from Korea, it has overseas investments in production facilities in China, Philippines and Vietnam.

California-based philanthropic investment firm **Omidyar Network** is going to enter India with plans to fund both for-profit and non-profit entities. It has so far committed nearly US\$270 m for such organizations across the

world. Working on the principle of positive social impact, in India Omidyar is looking for firms that are experiencing success, but are not yet large organizations. Agriculture, energy, water, healthcare, education, mobile technology would be the focus areas in India.

French engineering group **Schneider Electric** will buy Indian metering firm Conzerv Systems to expand its local operations. The company said that it would also export Conzerv products to overseas markets.

Japan's **Nomura** will pay about US\$29 m to buy 19.3% stake in LIC Mutual Fund as part of a deal to acquire 35% stake. The deal values the fund firm at US\$149.3 m.

The US-based private equity fund major, **Fire Capital**, has earmarked US\$500m equity investment to be spent over a period of five years on various realty projects, particularly on integrated townships, across the country. Vice-President (marketing & sales) Rohit Sehgal said that the company would be investing US\$100 m a year on an average in the Indian real estate sector for the next five years.

In order to increase its presence in the insurance segment, financial services provider Religare signed an agreement with **global reinsurer Swiss Re** to set up a 74:26 JV for health insurance which will begin operations by the fourth quarter of the current financial year. The joint venture plans to invest US\$100m. Insurers are trying to tap India's health segment which is growing at over 37% since 2002. In 2007-08, India's health insurance industry collected US\$ 1.2 b in premium income. It is one of the country's fastest-growing non-life insurance segments.

Indian Inc Going Global

The number of Indian companies investing abroad is rapidly increasing. Hindalco-Novelis, Tata Steel-Corus, Suzlon-REpower, Wipro-Infocrossing, United Spirits-Whyte & Mackay are some of the major acquisitions by the Indian corporate abroad in recent times. As per the RBI's data for the year 2007-08, the total outward investment from India, excluding that made by individuals and banks, rose 29.6% to US\$17.4 b, largely due to acquisitions. A large part of this was through the equity route. From a sectoral point of view, manufacturing topped the charts followed by the non-financial service sector.

India's largest wind turbine maker, **Suzlon Energy Ltd** bought Portuguese company Martifier's stake in Germany's REpower Systems. The company said that after the completion of the final US\$122 m payment, it now holds 90.72% of shares and voting rights in REpower Systems.

To serve its US customers better by establishing a near-shore presence, India's second biggest software exporter, **Infosys Technologies**, plans to open a software development and back office centre in Brazil later this year. V.Balakrishnan, chief financial officer of Infosys said that apart from being a local delivery centre, the new unit will also help Infosys gain more business from the regional market. The centre will employ around 100 professionals initially. Infosys thus joins TCS and Wipro Technologies of India in having

their operations in Brazil. Infosys said it had also won a new IT outsourcing contract from Telstra Corp, Australia's top phone company.

Bharti Airtel, India's largest mobile phone operator, tied up with UK-based AeroMobile, the world's largest in-flight solutions company, to become the first Indian company to offer in-flight services to its customers.

Elgi Equipments, a leading manufacturer of compressors in India launched a 100% subsidiary at Sao Paolo in Brazil to directly market its products. It would also start manufacturing the products in the country soon. Elgi has made the first stage investment of around US\$2.5m.

According to the **Global Retail Development Index (GRDI)** brought out by US-based global management consulting firm, A T Kearney, India reclaimed its position as the most attractive destination for global retailers despite the downturn. India is followed by Russia at the second and China at the third spot. India became the most attractive destination for retail investment for the fourth time in five years.

...And winning Global Contracts

British Telecom (BT) Group and **Tata Communications** (Tata Comm) have signed a five-year agreement worth about US\$1.5 b that will make Tata Comm BT's primary supplier of international direct dial (IDD) and other voice termination services outside BT's own footprint countries in Europe. Also BT will become Tata Comm's main distribution channel for its IDD traffic into the UK, expanding into other markets across Europe as the relationship matures. BT's entire traffic is expected to migrate to Tata Comm network by the end of this calendar year. The relationship will allow BT and Tata Comm to benefit from each others' strengths as they develop and grow their businesses in their respective markets.

Indian drug maker **Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd** said it had received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to sell its Omeprazole Mg drug, a generic variant of Prilosec, used for the treatment of heartburn. The first shipment of the product would start in the early part of the July-September quarter. Last month, Dr Reddy's forecast 10% revenue growth in the year ending in March 2010, and said earnings should be helped by the U.S. launch of Omeprazole.

Tata Power signed a MoU with Tata Steel and Corus Steel BV for building a 525 MW combined heat and power plant at Corus' IJmuiden works in the Netherlands. Under this MoU, Tata Power and Tata Steel will set up a joint venture company to build, own and operate the power plant. This facility will use most of the excess production gases from the steel mills and convert them same into steam and power. The plant will be ready in 2013.

Indian state-run engineering equipment maker **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd** won a contract worth US\$80 m to supply two gas turbines for a power project in Oman.

Tata's Nano Going Global too

Tata Motors plans to introduce **Nano**, the world's cheapest car, in Thailand in near future and later expand by taking it to neighbouring ASEAN countries. Tata Motors had earlier announced introducing *Nano* in Europe by 2011.

India's Manned Space Programme

G.Madhavan Nair, Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), said that recent successes in India's space programme had given the country the technological base to confidently approach the challenge of sending man to outer space. The aerospace sector in India has grown phenomenally during the last decade in terms of technological development. He said that the successful launch and recovery of the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment Module gave the country a deep insight into the technological aspects of aerothermodynamics, re-entry heating, navigation, guidance and control strategies pertaining to space vehicles. Moreover, the Chandrayaan-1 mission provided the country rich experience in the areas of mission planning, propulsion system, navigation and guidance required to undertake a planetary mission.

Expanding Domestic BPO Market

According to a new Ernst & Young study, the domestic Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) market, with a growth rate of 50% over five years, grew faster than the exports market to reach nearly US\$1.6 b revenues in the financial year 2008. Though it is smaller than the \$11b BPO exports market, it is expected to reach \$6 b by 2012. The report said that India's BPO exports will touch US\$28-30 b over 4-5 years. It said that the domestic BPO market's potential is in the range of US\$16-19 b by 2012, with significant business growth coming in from sectors like BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), telecom, media, retail and government sectors.

India 2nd Largest CDMA Market

India overtook China to become the second country in the world after USA to have more than 100 m CDMA-based mobile phone subscribers. At the same time, India's Reliance Communications became the second-largest CDMA service provider behind Verizon Wireless of USA. Tata Teleservices is ranked fourth in the list of top global players, behind China Telecom. There are about 475 m CDMA users in the world.

Indian mobile telephone firms added 11.9 m new customers in April, slower than in the previous month but still topping the world in the pace of additions. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India said that India had a total of 403.66 m wireless users at the end of April, second only to China in the world. Cheap calls rates and handsets are driving demand in India.

According to global analyst firm Gartner, the Indian telecom sector is expected to generate revenues of over US\$30 b by 2013. India's telecom subscriber base is expected to cross the 770 m mark by 2013. The mobile penetration in the country is also expected to reach 63.5% by 2013, up from 38.7% at present.

Indian Companies Among the Best Performers

According to American magazine, Business Week, Indian firms like telecom major Bharti Airtel and IT firms Infosys, TCS and Wipro are amongst the 100 best performing technology companies in the world. The 'Infotech 100' list for 2009, based on shareholder return, return on equity, total revenues, and revenue growth, ranks Bharti Airtel at the 6th position. Infosys (25th), TCS (30th) and Wipro (43rd) also feature in the top 50.

Amul Among World's Top Dairy Companies

India's Amul has been ranked among the top 21 largest dairy businesses in the world, according to the findings of the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN). Fonterra of New Zealand, Dairy Farmers of America and Nestle of Switzerland, secured the first three places with market share of 2.7%, 2.3% and 1.7% globally. Amul, with 0.4% market share, stood 21st in the list, thus entering the top league for the first time. With substantial growth during the last two years at Amul, its ranking would improve to 16th place in the current year. Thanks to the White Revolution pioneered by Amul, India with its milk production touching 114.4 mt in 2008 is the largest milk producer in the world, way ahead of the US and Germany with 79.3 mT and 39.4 mT respectively.

India to Auction Remaining Energy Blocks

Encouraged by recent oil and gas discoveries, India aims to auction its remaining 1 m sq km of potential exploration areas in the next two to three years. It recently launched its biggest ever exploration round, offering 70 blocks as it expects companies to seize the opportunity to strike good bargains because of the economic slowdown. India has so far allotted 68% of its 3.14 m sq km of area for exploration to various companies. Noted foreign oil firms, including Anadarko Petroleum, South Korea's Samsung, and Noble Energy, have indicated interest in the latest round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Out of India's 26 sedimentary basins, exploration works have begun in just 15 basins. India is currently believed to hold about 205 bb of hydrocarbon resources, of which 138 bb are yet to be found.

Clean, Efficient Energy On The Up

According to a new report of Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment 2009, sustainable energy investment in India went up to US\$3.7b in 2008, up 12% since 2007. It included asset finance of US\$3.2 b, up by 36%. Venture capital and private equity saw an increase of 270% to US\$493m. Mergers and acquisition activities totalled US\$585 m. Most acquisition activity was centred on biomass, small hydro and wind projects. The wind sector got the biggest chunk of investment, up from US\$2.2 b to US\$2.6 b. While investment in solar, particularly in module and cell manufacturing facilities, went up from US\$18 m in 2007 to US\$347 m, investment in small hydro quadrupled to US\$543 m.

The Energy Efficiency Indicator (EEI) survey conducted by Johnson Controls India for corporate India reveals that 47% of the respondents are paying more attention to energy efficiency, compared to last year, and 94% of the respondents feel that energy management is extremely important. More

than 92% of the respondents say energy efficiency is a priority in new construction as well as in renovation projects. Johnson Controls also conducted a similar survey, covering 1,400 respondents in North America in 2009. While in India, 72% believe that energy management is very important to their organization, in North America the figure stands at 39%. Whereas 64% will make energy capital investments and 72% will make operating expenditure in energy efficiency in India, in North America the percentages are 46% and 55% respectively.

India Future Solar Leader

India wants to become a global leader in solar power generation. According to the draft copy of the National Solar Mission, India is targeting for 20,000 MW of solar capacity by 2020. Siddharth Pathak, a climate and energy campaigner for Greenpeace India, said that "this would be the most ambitious solar plan that any country has laid out so far". India would generate 100,000 MW of solar power by 2030, and 200,000 MW by mid-century under the plan.

SMEs too For Green Spending

According to a joint study by IBM and the InfoTech Research Group, 63% of Indian IT organizations have deployed green server rooms to increase energy efficiency or have a pilot project underway. The study notes that even in a very difficult economic environment, more than 55% of Indian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are eager to actively invest in initiatives that reduce the environmental impact of their information technology. The study is based on a survey of more than 1,000 IT executives at companies with between 100 and 1,000 employees across industries and in a dozen countries, including India, United States, Canada, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

India's First Global University

The State Government of Rajasthan is planning to set up India's first global university within the next three years. The university will be built on a 300-acre land and envisages an investment of around US\$80 m. A global university is defined as one which has infrastructure of global standards and attracts students from all over the world. The university in Rajasthan will operate at a global level and offer courses in medicine, engineering, architecture, law and management.

Awards, Triumphs and Recognitions

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has formed an advisory group on climate change that includes, among others, India's **Ratan Tata**, Mexico's **Carlos Slim** and other business tycoons and executives from nongovernmental organizations. Its goal is to be supportive for the secretary-general in his work to increase the likelihood of a deal in Copenhagen and also then afterwards the execution of the deal. Rich and poor nations remain in a deadlock on how to cut emissions.

The US India Business Council (USIBC) felicitated leading Indian businessmen **Azim Premji** and **Anil Ambani**, and writer and diplomat, Vikas Swarup, at its 34th anniversary Synergies Summit in Washington.

Wipro Chairman Azim Premji was honoured with the 'Global Vision' award, while Anil Ambani of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group received the 'Global Leadership' award for their outstanding contribution in corporate sector. Indian diplomat **Vikas Swarup**, writer of 'Q & A' that turned out a multiple Oscar winning film 'Slumdog Millionaire', was felicitated with the 'Cultural Ties That Bind' award during the summit. USIBC represents some 310 American companies investing in India. Of them 220 firms figure in the list of Fortune 500.

Roshan Lal Nauhria, a non-resident Indian businessman has been chosen as member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (NZOM), one of the nation's highest civilian honours, for his contribution to business and to the Indian community.

Indian biologist, **Atul Khanna**, has been conferred with one of the highest awards of Finland for promoting collaboration between the two countries in the areas of science and business. Khanna, founder and Chairman of the Board of Systems Biology Worldwide, was made Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland by the Finnish President Tarja Halonen. He is credited with creating a dynamic and cost competitive research service delivery concept in which Indian strengths and advantages were combined with those of Finland.

Saina Nehwal scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a Super Series Badminton Tournament after clinching the Indonesian Open with a stunning victory over world No 3 Chinese Lin Wang in Jakarta. Hailing Saina's victory as an important milestone in Indian badminton, the Badminton Association of India said it was a big moment in Indian badminton.

According to Forbes magazine, Indian-origin persons **Adobe System CEO Shantanu Narayen** and **PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi** have been ranked at the 16th and 17th places, respectively in the list of 25 'top gun CEOs' for 2009 who kept their firms thriving amid the global economic recession.

Kavya Shivshankar, an Indian origin school girl, won the US National Spelling Bee championship for 2009. Indian-Americans kids have won this championship title seven times during the last ten years. Some eleven million American school children participated in the National Spelling Bee Championships this year. Out of the three finalists, two were Indian-American girls.

Lord Swraj Paul, a leading UK-based industrialist, has become the first India-born Briton to be appointed as a member of the Queen's Privy Council, the British monarch's advisory group. The 78-year-old industrialist will join an exclusive body that was set up some 500 years ago and currently has 540 members, including the prime ministers of Australia, Britain and Canada and other eminent personalities.

India's music composer duo **Salim-Sulaiman** have been nominated for the prestigious television production awards Emmy for their composition in popular American show *The Wonder Pets* screened in several countries. The

composers bagged the nomination in the outstanding original song category. They created the complete score for the episode *Save The Bengal Tiger*.

Ujjal Dosanjh, former premier of British Columbia and **Deepa Mehta**, an acclaimed film director, were among the six Indian-Canadians who received the 'Canadian Immigration Awards 2009' for their outstanding contribution to country's culture and economy. The other awardees were Girish Agrawal, Birinder Singh Ahluwalia, Baltej Singh Dhillon and Narinder Dhir.

They Said It...

"India is a long-term investment for us and we are keen on building the supply chain." - **Herve Clec'h, Managing Director, Carrefour WC&C India**

"We are looking at sourcing as much as we can from India and are studying the possibility of setting up an engine facility at the second plant near Bangalore." - **Hiroshi Nakagawa, Managing Director, Toyota Kirloskar Motor**

"India has taken its place in the world economy. A lot of them (Indian companies) can be global companies. You already have them in cars and autos, in electronics and systems." - **Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO, JP Morgan**

"India's aerospace market is poised for significant growth and we are thrilled to have the opportunities to support that growth and to tap into the capabilities of India's highly skilled aerospace workforce." - **Jeffrey Pino, President, Sikorsky**

TRADE INQUIRIES FROM INDIA

Company	Interest Area
<p>Tejjut 34, Kali Temple Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700 026,India. Tel: 91 033 65 33 11 38 Contact Person: Pallav Mitra Email: tejjut.in@gmail.com</p>	<p>Jute yarn, cloth, bags and other products</p>
<p>Bharat Exports Shri Dham C - 33, Ambabari, Jaipur - 302 012, Rajasthan, India.Tel: (91 98) 291 00 605 / 291 55 040, Email:mail@bharatexports.co.in Website: www.bharatexports.co.in</p>	<p>Jewellery</p>

<p>Third Eyesight 2nd Floor, SCO No. 35, Sector 15, Part II, Gurgaon, India. Tel: (91 124) 429 34 78 / 403 01 62 Fax: (91 124) 222 25 07, Contact Person: Ms. Neha Singhal, Email: ns@silk-paradise.com Website: www.thirdeyesight.in</p>	Silk products
<p>Cipla Ltd. Off Sahil Hotel, Bellasis Road, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, Maharashtra, India. Tel: 91 22 23 08 28 91, Fax: 91 22 23 07 00 13 Contact Person: Om Rane, Email: om.rane@cipla.com Website: www.cipla.com</p>	Pharmaceutical products
<p>Myassume 86-A, Ajit Colony, Jodhpur - 342 006, Rayastan, India. Tel: 91 99 28 97 42 00, Fax: 91 291 25 11 338, Contact Person: Prakash Balar, Email: prakashbalar@sify.com, myassume@sify.com Website: www.myassume.com</p>	Handicrafts and gifts
<p>Alpha Chemika Mohid Heights Unit No. 5; 4th Floor; Lokhandwala Rto. Road, Off Four Bungalows, Opp. Versova Tel Exchange Andheri (W), Mumbai - 53, India Tel: (91 22) 65 21 81 47 / 40 16 57 52, Fax: (91 22) 26 31 70 55, Contact Person: Tanmay Mahajan - Director Exports, Email: tanmay12@airtelmail.in Website: alphaslabchem.com</p>	Pharmaceutical Equipment
<p>Sky Water India Ltd. Survey No. 795, Warangal Road, Jodimetla, Ghatkesar Mandal, Rangareddy Dist., Hyderabad - 501 301, Andhra Pradesh, India. Tel: 91 91775 42 055, Contact Person: G. N. Bhushan - Plant Manager Email: sSai@skywater.in, Website: www.skywater.in</p>	Air-conditioning equipment
<p>Asian Trade Link A/19, Sidhpura Industrial Estate, L.B.S. Marg, Ghatkopar (West), Mumbai - 400 086, Maharashtra, India Tel: (91 22) 25 00 72 36 / 25 00 06 59 Fax: (91 22) 25 00 08 51 Contact Person: Jainesh S. Chokshi Email: sales@asiantradelinkindia.com Website: www.asiantradelinkindia.com</p>	Asphalt emulsion, paints and cosmetics

<p>UB Global A division of United Breweries (Holdings) Limited, Level 15, Canberra, UB City No. 24, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore - 560 001,India Tel: 91 80 22 11 16 00, Fax: 91 80 22 11 16 04 Contact Person: Achuth Das, Email: achuthdas@ubmail.com Website: www.ub-global.com</p>	<p>Automotive forgings, castings, Accessories, industrial flow control valve, stainers and filters for oil and gas applications</p>
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INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC)

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was launched in 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India. Under ITEC and its corollary SCAAP (Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme), 156 countries in Asia, East Europe, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America are invited to share in the Indian developmental experience acquired over five decades of India's existence as a free Nation.

ITEC is the flag bearer of the Indian Governments technical cooperation effort, not only because of its wide geographical coverage but also for innovative forms of technical cooperation in which it has assisted. ITEC is about cooperation and partnership for mutual benefit. It is response oriented and addresses the needs of developing countries. India is not a rich country and cannot offer grants-in-aid to match those of the developed countries. It does, however, possess skills of manpower and technology more appropriate to the geographical and ecological conditions and the stage of technological development of several developing countries. India spends about US\$15 m annually on ITEC activities. Since 1964, India has provided over US\$2 b worth of technical assistance to developing countries.

ITEC is essentially bilateral. There have been occasions, however, when ITEC resources were used for financing Trilateral and Regional Programmes under the Economic Commission for Africa, UNIDO and Group of 77. Today, AARRO (Afro Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation) and G-15 are being helped by ITEC with Training and project support and a small beginning has also been made with cooperation with the SADC (Southern African Development Community).

Indian Technical Economic Cooperation has five components, viz. (1) Training in India of nominees of ITEC partner countries; (2) Projects and project related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancy services; (3) Deputation of Indian experts abroad; (4) Study Tours; and (5) Aid for Disaster Relief (ADR).

For the year 2009-10, India has offered 15 ITEC seats to Mexico, 10 to Guatemala and 5 to Belize.

How to Apply

Interested candidates can participate in the programs through the following procedures: i) Contact the Indian Embassy in Mexico City and fill in the application form. Two copies of application form, duly filled in along with two passport sized photographs, should arrive in the Embassy of India in Mexico City at least three months before the commencement of the course; ii) Forward the completely filled nomination form to the Indian Embassy in Mexico through your respective organization of the Foreign Ministry of your country; iii)

The Embassy will then forward the form to the TC Division of Ministry of External Affairs for its processing; and iv) On approval by the Ministry Of External Affairs, the Embassy will arrange for the candidate's travel (by Economy airfare) to and fro at the expense of Government of India.

Eligibility

The ITEC courses are open to all between the age group of 25 to 45 years, including those in government or private employment. The applicants must also fulfill academic qualifications as laid down by the Institute for the selected course. One condition is that the course being attended should have some bearing on the kind of work the applicant is involved in. **Candidates must possess knowledge of English** as all courses are conducted in that language only. Candidates who have already attended ITEC programmes in India are also eligible to apply again.

Nature of Training

Nearly 2,000 candidates from around the world are trained each year in India under ITEC. One of the most important components, on which half of the annual ITEC budget is spent, is training. Economic development and technological advancement require a skilled and educated population. Under ITEC, training is provided free of cost to foreign trainees in some of the best Indian institutes specializing in parliamentary studies, audit and accounts, management, rural development, banking, mass communications, English language, IT and Telecommunications, diplomacy, small scale industries, environment and renewable energy, technical courses etc. so that they can benefit from India's development experience. ITEC even offers training for defence personnel through various institutions in India of which the National Defence College in New Delhi and the Defence Services Staff College in Tamil Nadu are the most prestigious and well known. All training programmes are conducted in the English language only.

Facilities Provided by Government of India

Visas for ITEC students are given gratis. Training expenses are entirely borne by the Government of India. These include the cost of international or internal air travel, accommodation as well as training charges at the institute. A living allowance or stipend (about US\$115 per month) is given to the trainees to meet part of their day-to-day needs. Arrangements are usually made by the concerned institute to receive the trainees upon their arrival in India. All institutes have catering facilities and the cost of the food provided is deducted from the stipend with the trainee receiving the balance. Nevertheless all trainees should take along some money of their own to cover incidental expenditures. About US\$500 is quite sufficient given the current exchange rate of about Rupees 48 = 1\$US. The training institutes usually arrange local tours to places of tourist, cultural and professional interest during the course.

Enduring Connection with India

On their return to their home countries, the trainees are encouraged to give their feedback to the Embassy so that constant improvements in ITEC courses can be made. ITEC trainees are also invited to remain in touch with the nearest Indian Embassy or directly with their training institutes. Periodically, an "ITEC Day" is organized at the Indian Embassy where former ITEC students are invited to renew their friendship with each other and with people from India. Most trainees return to their countries with fond memories of India and regard their training as useful. For many, ITEC provides them the first opportunity to visit India and experience for themselves the diversity of its culture and the friendliness of its people. ITEC is thus not merely a training programme, but also a vehicle

for fostering bilateral contacts and friendship between India and her friends around the globe.

For more details regarding ITEC institutes, courses, training brochure for 2009-10 and application forms, please visit the website of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Division under Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India. <http://itec.nic.in>



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh with the Heads of State of BRIC Countries, President Lula da Silva of Brazil, President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia and President Hu Jintao of China, in Yekaterinburg, Russia on June 16, 2009.

FORTNIGHTLY SCREENING OF FILMS AT EMBASSY AUDITORIUM

The Embassy of India in Mexico City has started fortnightly screening of Indian feature films and documentaries on various subjects - Indian society, polity, economy, history, tourism, art and culture - at the Embassy Auditorium located at Musset 325, Colonia Polanco, Delegacion Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico, D.F. 11550.

The screenings take place at 1800 hours on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, unless notified otherwise. Further details regarding films and documentaries for screening are available on the Embassy website: www.indembassy.org

Entry to the venue is gratis. All interested are cordially invited.