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On India-Mexico Relations

Amb.Jain addressed the American University in Acapulco on India-Mexico relations, at an event *La Jornada de la India en Acapulco*, also marked by an exhibition of paintings and photographs on India by Amb.Edmundo Font, former Ambassador of Mexico to India, his talk on 'India in Octavio Paz', and an Indian classical dance *Kathak* recital by his wife, Veronique Azan, a highly reputed maestra of the dance form.

Amb.Jain said the event was apt and timely, for India is an ancient civilisation, birthplace of four important religions (Jainism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism), yet a country of the second largest Muslim population in the world, with a sizeable Christian community in its various denominations, the refuge for the Zoroastrian community from Persia, and a rare land with no anti-semitism through her entire history; inventor of the concept of zero; the world's most advanced nation in ancient times in medicine and surgery, in astronomy, as well as in astrology, and other branches of science, philosophy, metaphysics; the richest country in the medieval times as epitomised by Taj Mahal; a land of spirituality; the most diverse nation with mind-baffling varieties and types of languages, cuisine, costume, custom, culture, colour, and ethnicity, and yet traditionally an inclusive, pluralistic society proud of its 'unity in diversity'; a nation tormented by innumerable invasions through long centuries, suffered even a prolonged colonial rule; yet a nation which has always espoused peace, non-violence, tolerance, assimilation, and absorption, with no record ever of invading others; regained her independence uniquely through a long-drawn but resolutely non-violent struggle; rendered impoverished but with unbroken spirit, now scoring significant successes on the path of progress, modernism, and equity. He said he was pleased to speak on India-Mexico relations, between his two most favourite countries in the world. He said he had found Mexico a truly great country, with greater potential; a nation of rich history, diverse culture, and a multilayered civilization; of salubrious climate, myriad-faceted geography and a colourful variegated landscape; a country of proud traditions of democracy, secularism, pluralism, and pacifism; of laudable economic, technological, and social achievements, the first developing country to join the advanced OECD; the most arty and cultural, with art, paintings, sculptures, museums, dance and music lurking at every nook and corner, at all times; the largest and the leading representative country of the Spanish speaking Latin world, the land of pyramids of Chichen Itza and Teotihuacan, sun-soaked sandy beaches of Acapulco, Cancun and Los Cabos, and of Mariachi, tequila, and an incredible cuisine. Above all, Mexican people are naturally warm, spontaneously friendly, smilingly welcoming, generously hospitable, and innately wonderful, with strong family and social ties.

India and Mexico share many similarities, be it history's antiquity and experiences, diverse cultural richness, political beliefs and practices, or challenges of economic development and inclusiveness, and in their inheritance, traits and values, and their common bonds, notwithstanding their vast geographical distance. Their linkages date back to historical times through mercantile trade. Mexico gave ready refuge to India's freedom fighters, like M.N.Roy in 1917, a co-founder of the Mexican communist movement. India's foremost painter, Satish Gujral, also a muralist, sculptor, and architect, spent some of his most important formative years, in early Fifties, in Mexico of Diego Rivera and Frieda Calho, of Siqueiros and Orazsco. India's strive for food security scored historic success with valuable support from Mexico with the high-yielding hybrid wheat seed, Sonora. This year the two countries have reached the notable landmark of 60 years of diplomatic relations. Mexico's great son, Octavio Paz, Ambassador to India for 8 long years during the Sixties, was instrumental in bringing the two countries and peoples closer. Verily, the two countries have an undercurrent of harmony, much deeper and at a more substantive level, that defines the foundation for an enduring partnership between them. The fundamental aspect guiding the partnership is democracy, democratic spirit and liberal thought. There is much mutual understanding and empathy between them, underlined by abundant spontaneous goodwill and friendliness. During the State visit of President Calderon to India, in September 2007, the two sides declared that India and Mexico, old civilizations, representing

vibrant and pluralistic democracies, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious, with a tradition of friendship and cooperation in the political, commercial, economic, science & technology, environmental and developmental spheres, recognize each other as countries actively contributing to creative solutions to global problems. The two sides decided to establish a Privileged Partnership between them with a view to leveraging their mutual strengths for each other's common benefit and socio-economic development. Early return visit of the President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, in April 2008, was in an emphatic statement of the high importance attached by India to the ties with Mexico. The two sides have already put in place an extensive institutional framework to advance their relationship further, including 'Foreign Office Consultations', a Joint Commission, and a High Level Group on trade, investment, and economic cooperation, besides an array of agreements in various areas. The bilateral trade was already in the range of \$3 billion bothways, with a realistic potential for \$10 billion in next 5 years. Ambassador cited mining, renewable energies, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, information technology, food processing, and infrastructure as the areas with particular promise for cooperation for mutual benefit. Several leading Indian companies already have a significant presence in the Mexican market.

Ambassador clearly perceived India and Mexico to take their partnership into future in an exhilarating and a highly productive long-term journey and asked that the need was to bridge the physical disconnect by expanding connectivity between the two peoples, through vigorous promotion of mutual tourism, and more frequent cultural interaction, besides a regular exchange of visits at various levels. The media in particular in both countries has a crucial role in expanding mutual popular awareness, especially among the youth. In this context, he announced that India was all set to soon open a full-fledged Indian Cultural Centre in Mexico City, offering the entire bouquet of Indian culture as desired by the Mexican people, including yoga, Indian classical dances and music, languages, cuisine, possibly even spirituality. Similar ideas and plans in other areas, in cuisine, tourism, information, and cooperation in general, were also under consideration and implementation. Amb. Jain concluded that India-Mexico relations remain as ever excellent and friendly, but we must work together and determinedly, with a clear vision of our long-term objectives and the roadmap, to realise the vast untapped potential. He also visited Zihuatanejo where he met the Mayor and local investors and businessmen.

India, Mexico Energy Ministers Meet

India's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Murli Deora and Mexico's Secretaria de Energia Georgina Kessel had a bilateral meeting on March 30 in Cancun, on the sidelines of the 12th IEF. Deora conveyed to Martinez the 'keen desire of Indian oil companies for participation in the Mexican upstream sector'. They discussed new measures of cooperation in the field of energy with focus on the hydrocarbons sector. He mentioned India's growing need for crude oil to keep in step with rising refining capacity and evinced interest in increased exports of petroleum from Mexico as well as participation in sectoral projects in Mexico. The Mexican side informed that their laws presently permitting exploration and production on service contract basis, were under review. The incentive based system presently under-consideration is likely to help attract more investment which Indian companies could also utilize.

India pressed for providing energy at affordable prices and in an environmentally sustainable manner at the world's biggest energy event. Said Petroleum Minister Murli Deora at the International Energy Forum, at Cancun, Mexico, "The challenge developing countries face today is how to provide all their citizens access to modern forms of energy at affordable prices and in an environmentally sustainable manner." He said while national governments will no doubt need to play a pro-active role, there is great scope for international cooperation for addressing the issues at hand. Oil prices stabilising near \$80 per barrel has brought about a rare harmony between the producers and consumers, both

of whom seemed comfortable with current rates. Both groups at the IEF were keen to curb volatility and speculation in prices. New Delhi has since 2006 been highlighting the role of speculators in oil trade. However, the world acknowledged it only in 2008 when oil prices fell from the record high of \$147 a barrel in July to \$32 per barrel in December 2008.

India at Mexico IT Meet

Instituto Mexicana de Teleservicios, Mexico organized a Global Contact Forum, in conjunction with the 14th Mexican Congress of the Forum, in Mexico City from March 8-10, bringing together companies, professionals representing Call Centres and IT and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry and hundreds of experts from across the world. Ambassador of India was invited to address the Forum on the theme: The India BPO Success Story – What Sped the Transformation? In his remarks, Amb.Dinesh K Jain placed India's marked success in this industry in a wider context of India's achievements in the knowledge sector, and its cultural and intellectual ethos that is fundamental to this transformation. He referred in particular to three milestones in this Indian saga: the New Computer Policy in 1984 introduced by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the major economic reform process set into motion in 1991 by then Finance Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh, and the Knowledge Commission set up in 2005 with the objective of creating a second wave of institution and capacity building. Specific to the call centre and BPO industry, Ambassador said that India accounts for 55% of the global market in offshore IT services, and 35% of ITES/BPO market, counting 75% of the Fortune-500 companies among its clientele. He lauded Mexico's natural strengths and advantages to be a global leader in IT-BPO industry, and also reflected on how the two trillion-dollar economies—India and Mexico—that enjoy a 'Privileged Partnership' between them, can leverage their strengths to mutual benefit.

Mexico's Homex in an Indian JV

India's Puravankara Projects has entered into an agreement with Mexico-based Homex India Private to form a joint venture company for affordable housing projects. The company and Desarrolladora Homex, SAB de CV, through its subsidiary Homex India Private signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) through which the companies to establish the joint venture (JV) company. The first project of the joint venture company is expected to be in Chennai. Desarrolladora Homex, SAB de CV is a leading home developer specialising in building communities for the affordable entry-level and low middle-income housing markets. "We will be adding our expertise and business model to what we both feel is a strong business opportunity in India's affordable, entry-level market," Homex's CEO said.

Homage to Late Dr.Norman Borlaug

International Maize & Wheat Development Centre (CIMMYT), located in Mexico, organized a ceremony at Ciudad de Obregon, in Sonora, on March 25, to pay tribute on recently deceased Dr.Norman Borlaug, the world renowned agricultural scientist, on his birth anniversary. Borlaug has a special place in India's annals because of his giant contribution to the Green Revolution that helped India move triumphantly towards food sufficiency. Government of India honoured him by conferring the second highest civilian award of Padma Vibhushan in the year 2006. The ceremony was graced, among others, by Sr.Guillermo Padres Elias, Governor of Sonora, and Sr.Antonio Mayorga, Federal Minister for Agriculture. In a commemorative message conveyed at the ceremony, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) said: "The people of India and the government of India salute Dr Borlaug, and hope his memory will continue to inspire coming generations of scientists and farmers to ensure food security to all". A life-size bronze statue of Dr.Borlaug was unveiled at the CIMMYT campus in Obregon, and part of his ashes were preserved at the same spot in an urn. Obregon is where Borlaug produced the Sonora wheat variety.

India's Humanitarian Assistance to Chile

In response to the devastation caused by an earthquake that hit Chile on February 27, including extensive

loss of life and property, Government of India extended, as a token of solidarity with the people of Chile, a cash donation of US\$ 5 million to Chile as humanitarian assistance.

First Taco Bell Opens In India

Yum! Brands, a leading restaurant company in India with its KFC and Pizza Hut brands announced the opening of the first Taco Bell in India by its international division. Yum!'s Taco Bell international restaurant, located in Bangalore, is India's first experience with the Mexican-inspired quick-service restaurant brand. The new Taco Bell India menu features tacos, burritos, nachos, quesadillas and Crunchwraps, including spicier products tailored to the Indian market. Fifty percent of the menu features a vegetarian range of products specially created for Indian consumers including potato paneer burritos and crunchy potato tacos, among others. India is a key growth market for Yum! Brands due to its extremely young and large population of 1.1 billion people, growing middle class and emerging economy. By 2015, the Company expects to have at least 1,000 restaurants in India, up from 230 restaurants as of year-end 2009.

Love never claims, it ever gives. Love never suffers, never resents, never revenges itself.
- Mahatma Gandhi

India-US Partnership of Two Democracies

Addressing a distinguished audience at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington, D.C., on March 15, Foreign Secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao reflected on the essence and the potential of the unique partnership between two of the world's greatest democracies - the oldest and the largest, saying, "I believe in...democracy...because it releases the energies of every human being. This is what democracies seek to do - in essence, to harness the energies, and enable the empowerment of all their citizens, regardless of colour or creed, ethnicity or economic status...India and America are connected in a very direct and obvious way by the kind of similarities that we share - our respect for fundamental democratic freedoms, our strong and enduring democratic institutions, the rule of law, our culture of debate and discussion, the stress on accountability and transparency in governance, our autonomous institutions that are constitutionally empowered to safeguard fundamental rights and our shared commitment to preserve the pluralistic and secular nature of our diverse and open societies...We have come a long way, in the last decade and a half. Today, as India has grown to be one of the leading economies of the world, and a responsible nuclear power, we are cooperating at the global level on a range of issues. Bilaterally, our ties have become truly broad-based. The conclusion of the India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2008 marked a major definitive milestone in our relationship. That our ties are marked by both popular and political support was underlined in 2009 by the reaffirmation by our newly elected governments that they would encourage the further positive transformation of our strategic partnership for mutual benefit. In July 2009, we launched a Strategic Dialogue process that covers a number of areas of convergence under the five pillars of: Strategic Cooperation, Energy and Climate Change, Education and Development, Economics, Trade and Agriculture and Science, Technology, Health and Innovation...The strong support in both countries for a robust bilateral relationship is, to quote our Prime Minister, based on both principle and pragmatism. Not only are we natural partners in addressing strategic issues of regional or global concern but there are very direct linkages on a day to day basis...there is another key contributing factor today: the foreign policy priorities of the United States and India seem to converge now as never before - and both Governments recognize the validity of their cooperation in helping to craft solutions to the foremost challenges of our times- the threat of terrorism as it affects both our nations, the dangers of religious extremism, promoting development in Afghanistan, the global financial and economic crisis that has given new content and meaning to the work of forums like the G-20, the common challenges of

addressing the impact of global climate change or disaster relief, pandemics or piracy at sea; our partnership has increasing relevance and meaning.' On terrorism faced by India, she said, "India's approach has been to deal with this challenge with restraint. Despite the brazen and malignant nature of the threats we face, India has made several genuine efforts to restore trust and confidence. Aggressive pronouncements by persons identified by the world as terrorists continue to be made openly against India. Distinctions made between the various terrorist outfits are now meaningless, since they are now in effect fused both operationally and ideologically. We have consistently emphasized the need for Governments concerned to act decisively to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism and to effectively deal with groups that perpetrate it. However, our restraint should not be confused with weakness or unwillingness to act against those that seek to harm our people, create insecurity, and hamper our developmental goals. We are a strong country and we possess the capacity to deal effectively with those that pursue destructive agendas against India and its people. We have, time and again, made genuine attempts to address outstanding issues, most importantly, the issue of terrorism through dialogue with Pakistan. My meeting with my Pakistan counterpart represented the latest such move. Despite the provocations we have faced constantly from terrorists whose linkages we have traced back to Pakistani soil, we have not abandoned the path of dialogue. And in our recent meeting, India's approach was to focus on our concerns regarding terrorism, pending humanitarian issues, and some bilateral visits that have been planned or spoken of, but have not taken place. But it continues to be our conviction that for this dialogue to really make progress, Pakistan should take meaningful steps to address our concerns on terrorism, and cease the encouragement of terrorism targeted against India. In January 2004, the then Pakistani leadership had made such an assurance on the basis of which we resumed our Composite Dialogue to discuss various outstanding issues in our relationship. Today, Pakistan claims that it is in no position to give us such a guarantee that terrorism can be controlled by its authorities. In such a situation, the people of India who are already bitterly affected by the series of terrorist attacks directed against them, can hardly be expected to support the resumption of a full-blown Composite Dialogue with Pakistan. It is also important that there are strict accountability criteria that apply to defence assistance rendered to Pakistan for operations against terrorists and insurgents on the border with Afghanistan. Our past experience regarding such assistance has taught us to be vigilant to the possibility of it being used for purposes that generate tension and hostile actions against India. We do not have aggressive designs against Pakistan and we want it to be a stable and prosperous country. But we will be vigilant about our security. That is our sovereign right."

India's Place in the Multi-polar World

Pitching for reform of the UN and global financial institutions, India has warned that "weak or failing states" in its neighbourhood pose a threat to its security. "...that is something that India clearly feels very strongly about; there is a need for an expansion of the Security Council in both categories - permanent and non-permanent," Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor said. Tharoor also called for strengthening of the UN General Assembly as the primary intergovernmental legislative body. "It has become too often a rhetorical forum, or a declaratory forum rather than one which acts as a legislative body which drives the action of the UN organisation," he said. Tharoor was speaking at a seminar titled 'India's place in the multi-polar World'. The seminar was organised by the Alfred Herrhausen Society (International Forum for Deutsche Bank), Policy Network, London, and the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA). "UN reform is sort of like a malady where all the doctors gather around the patient, and they all agree on the diagnosis, but they can't agree on the prescription," he said while calling for a fresh momentum for the reform of the UN. "That is the problem we've been facing for the last 18 years of debate on UN reform, since the General Assembly took it on the agenda in 1992 but which we are seeking to supplant with

a more serious discussion in the General Assembly plenary," he said. "...in India we know that we have a neighbour who has strongly resisted any proposal that could see us become a permanent member" Tharoor said, alluding to regional rivalries that stalled the process of reform of the UN Security Council. The so-called "Coffee Club" opposed new permanent members for the UN Security Council. The club comprised countries like Italy, South Korea, Argentina, Canada, Colombia and Pakistan, who came out with an alternative proposal to block the G4's bid by India, Japan, Germany and Brazil for permanent seats in the UN Security Council. Underlining the problem of global terrorism, Tharoor said its appeal might diminish if economic opportunities for youth are increased and greater political pluralism is offered in many societies. "But in saying this, I am conscious that India's story could be seriously affected by the failure of other countries in our neighbourhood to do either," he said. "Weak or failing states are a major threat to their neighbours. India sees its own security in the promotion of the security and prosperity of our neighbours," he said.

India Ready to Walk Extra Mile if Pak Acts Against Terror

India is

willing to walk the "extra mile" to open a new chapter in relations with Pakistan but it must act decisively against terrorism, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asserted. Addressing the Majlis-al-Shura or the Saudi Consultative Council in Riyadh, during his 3 day visit to Saudi Arabia he said, "We seek cooperative relations with Pakistan. Our objective is a permanent peace because we recognise that we are bound together by a shared future. If there is cooperation between India and Pakistan, vast opportunities will open up for trade, travel and development that will create prosperity in both countries and in South Asia as a whole," Singh said. But to realise this vision, PM asserted, Pakistan must "act decisively against terrorism. If Pakistan cooperates with India, there is no problem that we cannot solve and we can walk the extra mile to open a new chapter in relations between our two countries."

Leading a high-powered delegation on a visit to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Singh was accorded an exceptionally warm welcome by the Saudi leadership that departed from protocol in sending Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz and other dignitaries to receive the Indian PM at the airport. PM later arrived at the residential palace of King Abdullah to an impressive Guard of Honour. The visit came 28 years after last such visit by an Indian PM. King Abdullah was the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2006. In the most significant outcome of the visit the Riyadh Declaration raised the bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership covering various dimensions - security, economic, defence and political. The two leaders also renewed their condemnation of terrorism, extremism and violence. While calling upon the international community to resolutely combat terrorism, they agreed, among others, to develop joint strategies to fight these threats. Several other agreements, including an Extradition Treaty, were signed during the visit. Addressing the members of the legislative body that advises the Saudi King, PM said Islam is an integral part of India's nationhood and ethos and of the rich tapestry of its culture. India's 160 million Muslims are contributing to our nation building efforts and have excelled in all walks of life. We are proud of our composite culture.

No Sense In Going Back To Composite Dialogue

Notwithstanding

Pakistan's repeated insistence on resumption of composite dialogue, India ruled it out, saying going back to the same process did "not make sense" as "we have to learn from history". National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon said the recent foreign secretary-level talks were aimed at exploring whether discussions could be taken forward. "Frankly just going back to doing the composite dialogue as it was when it ended up in 26/11, to our mind, it does not make sense," Menon said in New Delhi. "We have to learn from history, from what's happened to you, what is happening. So that's why we are talking. Which is why the whole point of those (Foreign Secretary level) talks was to explore what's possible and where we can go with it," Menon said. Asked about the utility of the February 25 Indo-

Pak talks in the backdrop of Pakistan not taking action against the 26/11 perpetrators and terror groups, he said: "We wouldn't talk if we knew exactly where we were going and what is possible or not." On the talks itself, Menon said he was not in a position to describe the end state or the outcome, but after the first round of talks between the two Foreign Secretaries, it had to be seen where the discussions could be taken in the future. "We (India and Pakistan) have had one round. We have talked to each other and we have said what we think, what we would like. Let us see where we can take it forward," he added. Regarding Afghanistan, Menon said, "India will continue to help restore economy and democracy, and build projects that help the Afghan people and also find ways to do it in the environment that existed there today. What we are doing in Afghanistan is in response to what the Afghan people want. We are trying to restore the economy, we are trying to build the projects that help the Afghan people to lead a normal life, we are trying to help the restoration of democracy, which they want themselves."

Mumbai Terrorist Attack: Pak-American Admits Role

David Coleman

Headley, 49, pleaded guilty in a US court. In his plea agreement Headley admitted attending training camps organised by the Lashkar-e-Toiba, meeting various co-conspirators including but not limited to Lashkar-e-Toiba members and being privy to the terror attacks planned in Mumbai in November 2008. The US and India say the gunmen were trained and directed by the Pakistani-based terrorist group Lashkar e-Taiba. Home Minister Chidambaram said, "The plea agreement is the most damning indictment of the role played by certain persons in Pakistan... It should spur Pakistan to take action against all the conspirators and bring them to justice. Nothing short of that will be acceptable to India or will satisfy world opinion." He said Pakistan was begrudging in initiating proceedings against a few persons involved in the conspiracy and leaving out key conspirators—Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief and Lashkar's mentor Hafiz Saeed and Pakistan Army officers and ISI agents who abetted 26/11 attacks.

India has decided to challenge the plea agreement between the US authorities and Lashkar operative Headley, a key protagonist of 26/11 attacks, on the ground that it goes against the international laws that require the US to cooperate in extraditing a fugitive wanted for a terror act committed on foreign soil. India has decided seek a review of the plea agreement, especially since it is yet to be approved by the Illinois district court trying Headley.

India Will Act Decisively If Another Attack Happens

India will act

"swiftly and decisively" if another terrorist attack emanates from Pakistani soil, Home Minister P.Chidambaram said, urging Pakistan to "reinvent itself" as a genuine democracy and a responsible neighbour. "The challenge before security is that the source of the terror lies across our border and they have the support of the state and therefore their capacity to reach here and strike is very high," he said, adding that cities in India were as vulnerable to terror as those in other parts of the world. "We are no more vulnerable and no less vulnerable to terror than any other country...Let me assure you, we will prevail as we have the capacity to face any challenge of terror...If we are able to establish with a reasonable degree of certainty that another attack on India emanated from Pakistani soil, we will respond swiftly and decisively." Pointing to Pakistan's unhelpful role over Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafeez Saeed, Chidambaram said, "Investigations around the world are carried out in a certain way. If Pakistan does not know how to interrogate Saeed, then they should allow my agents to go in there and do the job. I am willing to get this done." The minister summarised how the dossiers presented to Pakistan contained information of Hafeez Saeed's specific location on certain dates, the terror camps he visited and his interaction with those suspected of launching the terror attacks in Mumbai. "I'd like to believe that Pakistan has stepped back from sponsoring non-state actors, but there is no proof of that yet," Chidambaram said. Pakistan could make a start towards convincing India of its

sincerity by providing voice samples of those suspected of guiding the 26/11 terrorists from Pakistan, said he. But Pakistan had simply refused to act even though India had sent in a list of suspects. Arguing that Pakistan had proved to be a "difficult neighbour" ever since partition and independence in 1947, Chidambaram said, "It must reinvent itself...to become a truly democratic country where real power lies in democratically elected leaders' hands...The two nations are nuclear powers, and war is not an option, so we must talk...We tried to make a beginning with the foreign secretary talks, but nothing came out of it, I'm afraid."

Terrorist Attacks in Lahore

In a statement issued in New Delhi, Government of India unequivocally condemned the series of bomb blasts in Lahore on March 12, which claimed the lives of scores of people, including innocent civilians, and injured many more, among them women and children. It added, "Our condolences go out to the families of those killed by these acts of terrorism. At the same time, Government is deeply disappointed by statements emanating from Pakistan alleging an Indian hand in yesterday's attacks in Lahore, and other terrorist acts and disturbances elsewhere in Pakistan. We categorically reject, once again, the allegations of India's involvement in such acts or activities. Government has reiterated on several occasions, and at the highest level, that India has no interest in destabilizing Pakistan. It is unfortunate that by repeating such unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations, officials in responsible positions in the Government of Pakistan put a strain on our bilateral relationship, instead of concentrating on dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism directed against India and adversely impacting on Pakistan itself."

Putin Visit Reinforces Ties of Friendship

Prime Minister of Russia, Mr.Vladimir Putin, accompanied by an official delegation comprising senior members of the Russian Government and several business leaders, paid a working visit to New Delhi, on March 12, at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh. The two leaders held talks on a range of issues of bilateral interest. Dr Singh said in a statement to the media, during the visit, "Prime Minister Putin has been the architect of the strategic partnership between India and Russia, and we owe a deep sense of gratitude to him for bringing our two countries so close to each other. We have just concluded very comprehensive and in-depth discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues. I conveyed to Prime Minister Putin that relations with Russia are a key pillar of our foreign policy, and we regard Russia as a trusted and reliable strategic partner. Ours is a relationship that not only stands independent of any other, but whose significance has grown over time. Our partnership covers areas such as defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment. In the run-up to, and during Prime Minister Putin's visit, we have finalised several important and long pending defence cooperation projects which will deepen our longstanding partnership in this vital sector. We have signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in Atomic Energy and agreed upon a Roadmap for construction of nuclear power plants. A Memorandum of Understanding for bilateral cooperation in Russia's satellite navigation system has been agreed upon. We have agreed to strengthen our cooperation in hydrocarbons through greater collaboration between our oil and gas companies. Agreements have been signed in the areas of fertilisers. We have identified information technology and telecommunications as focus areas for our future economic cooperation. The outcomes of Prime Minister Putin's visit are therefore rich and very substantive. We had a detailed discussion on regional and global issues. There is much that India and Russia can do together to advance global peace and stability and the process of global economic revival. We have agreed to intensify our consultations on Afghanistan and the challenges posed by terrorism and extremism in our region. I am very happy to state that my discussions with Prime Minister Putin have reinforced the strong ties of friendship that bind our two countries together."

Dalai Lama Proud Being Called 'Son of India'

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama expressed his pleasure at being introduced in the Madhya Pradesh assembly as the "son of Mother India". In his lecture at the Assembly auditorium on March 17 he said he had been living in India for the past 51 years and was proud to be called the son of India. The Buddhist leader said that the same "dal" and "chapatti", on which millions of Indians live, made his life easier.

When you are in the right you can afford to keep your temper, and when you are in the wrong, you cannot afford to lose it.
-Mahatma Gandhi

India Well Placed to Achieve High Growth

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, "India has emerged from an unprecedented global slowdown faster than any other nation. The advance estimates indicate a 7.2% growth in 2009-10. Exports are also recovering with an 11.5% growth in January 2010," said Mukherjee. At the same time, the finance minister also listed some challenges. "The first challenge is to quickly revert to the high GDP growth path of 9% and then find the means to cross the 'double-digit' growth barrier." "We also need to harness economic growth to consolidate the recent gains in making development more inclusive," he said. "Market is opening up and the job situation has also improved considerably with campus recruitments in full swing with very attractive pay packages. The opportunities are again wide open." Emphasising skill development, Mukherjee said it was a key factor for the economic and social growth of the country. "We have to create skill-sets all over the country, including the remote areas. The Prime Minister's council on National Skill Development has laid down the core governing principles and it has a mission of creating 500 million skilled people by 2022," he said. "Our endeavour is to provide expanded access to higher education by the end of 11th five year plan by setting up 30 new central universities. This initiative along with establishment of 370 new colleges would address the regional imbalances and provide a platform for inclusive education in the country," he said.

Economy to Touch \$2.5 tn in Next 5 Years

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma expressed confidence that the size of Indian economy was likely to double to \$2.5 trillion by 2015. "We will see India doubling its GDP in the next five years to \$2.5 trillion," Sharma said at the 44th convocation of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). India is the second fastest growing economy in the world after China even as the developed economies are just coming out of the shocks of the financial tsunami. India's GDP was estimated at \$1.2 trillion in 2008-09.

India Inc. expects 8.5% growth in 2010-11

According to a survey conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), majority of India Inc's top CEOs feel that the Indian economy is likely to grow at 8-8.5% in the next fiscal. As per the survey, 60% of the respondents said they expect GDP to grow 8-8.5% for the year ending March'11, while another 20% expect growth to range between 7.5-8%. The respondents were 100 CEOs and industrialists who are part of the CII National Council.

Industrial Output, Exports Record Steep Rise

India's industrial output and exports maintained their strong growth pace in February. "Industrial output is likely to have grown by about 16% in February, which would be slightly lower than January," Industry Secretary R P Singh said. India's exports in February grew 34.8% year-on-year to US\$ 16.09 billion after an annual 11.5% rise in January, Trade Minister Anand Sharma said. He predicted they would grow 15-20% in the fiscal year that starts April 1. According to Director General, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), India's trade data shows that import growth is in tandem with the performance of the manufacturing sector which is growing at 15-16%. The strong growth trend in exports is

reflected in the narrowing of the trade deficit to US\$ 30.73 b in the December quarter as against US\$ 31.90 b in the July-September quarter. However, the latest data also showed India's current account deficit widened to US\$ 12.03 b in the December quarter as against US\$ 11.67 b a year earlier, due to sluggish remittances and services exports. The government announced a fresh package of incentives for exporters of garments, engineering, electronics and agro products to select markets where demand for the products is yet to pick up. Exporters of agro products would get the benefit for Nigeria, Algeria and Mexico. The Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.2% in the financial year 2009-10 and the government aims to cut its fiscal deficit to 5.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2010-11. Exports of gems and jewellery touched US\$ 2.6 b in January 2010, growing 61.8% over the same period in the previous year, according to the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

Share Market at New High, Attracts FII Inflows

Indian share markets ended on a positive note on March 29 taking support from stocks from banks, FMCG and realty space. Bombay Stock Exchange's Sensex ended at 52-week closing high of 17,711.35, up 66.59 points or 0.38%. National Stock Exchange's Nifty closed at 52-week closing high of 5302.85, up 20.85 points or 0.39%. Indian markets have been witnessing an up-move based on capital inflows from foreign investors. Foreign investors have so far in 2010 bought shares worth a net \$3.7 billion, adding to net inflows of a record \$17.5 billion last year. According to analysts, the inflows are likely to continue next fiscal as well. A major chunk of funds came in through primary market route. "FIIs will continue to put in money in the Indian shares."

Rupee at Near 19-month High vs US Dollar

The rupee strengthened to a near 19-month high on March 29, as the dollar's weakness overseas triggered selling in the US currency by exporters and firmer share prices underpinned sentiment. The partially convertible rupee ended at 44.9575/9675 per dollar, after hitting 44.9450, its strongest since Sept 10, 2008.

Auto Sales Surge 49% in February

India's auto sales surged 49% in February compared to last year. Sales of commercial vehicles, a sign of economic activity rose 119.4%, sales of passenger cars by 33.2% and that of other passenger vehicles, like utility vehicles, rose 37.2%. India is one of the few automobile markets that has continued to grow through the global downturn. Analysts say economic growth is picking up and demand for cars remains strong, even in the face of rising prices and the government's focus on road building and rural infrastructure is also likely boost vehicle sales in the long run. India's leading carmaker, Maruti Suzuki's sales in February was 22% higher than last year. Tata Motors, the nation's largest commercial vehicle company, also reported its highest-ever total monthly sales, registering a 58% increase. Overall exports from India surged 44.9%.

Maruti Suzuki First to Roll Out Million Cars in a Year

India's largest car manufacturer, Maruti Suzuki, has become the first automobile company in India to produce one million cars in a year. Maruti has now joined the elite club of automobile manufacturers like Toyota, General Motors, Volkswagen, Ford, Honda, Renault, Nissan and its parent company Suzuki, in producing one million cars in a year.

Growth in sales in Steel sector

India's top private steelmakers including Essar and JSW posted double-digit growth in sales volume with Ispat Industries' sales rocketing 70% in February 2010, over the year ago period, backed by robust demand from automobile and infrastructure sectors. The rise in housing construction activities also lifted volume growth as did the low base effect as companies were producing less the previous year due to low demand. Indian steel industry witnessed a sharp decline in

demand since the second half of 2008. But demand started gathering pace post April 2009 and steel consumption grew 8% in the first nine months of the fiscal ending March'10. Steel demand is expected to continue rising with the government's emphasis on infrastructure development in the budget. The state-owned steel giant, Steel Authority of India (SAIL), is expected to spend US\$ 2.7 billion to fund its mega expansion programme in the next financial year.

India Salary Hikes Highest in Asia-Pacific

Wages in India

are expected to rise the fastest in the Asia-Pacific region, going up by a tenth in 2010, according to a recent survey by staffing services firm Hewitt Associates. A strong rebound in the Indian economy, supported by a focus on building infrastructure and consumer demand, has had firms lining up plans to ride the wave of growth. On an average, salaries went up 6.6% in 2009, the survey said. The survey of 465 companies across 20 industries said the heftiest hikes is likely to be in engineering and construction firms which would benefit from India's projected \$38 b expenditure on infrastructure. India is expected to grow at least 7.2% in the year ending March 2010, accelerating to around 8.5% the following year.

World Bank: Developing Countries Learn from India

Developing

countries could achieve sustainable growth by reviewing the economic growth models of India, Managing Director of the World Bank Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said. During the South-South Cooperation Meeting held in Bogota, Colombia, Okonjo-Iweala said that the biggest challenge faced by the Latin American countries is to create programs of social assistance and make creative efforts to reduce unemployment. She suggested exploring India's economic growth model with the implementation of small and medium enterprises and a well-structured financing with the World Bank, which has achieved progress in the international market.

US\$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment in 12th Plan

Aiming at an

annual 10% growth, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said investment in infrastructure sector should be doubled from the current level to an ambitious \$1 trillion during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17). "Let me begin by clarifying that when I say infrastructure, I do not mean only infrastructure for the modern part of our economy. For truly inclusive growth, we need to meet the infrastructure needs of the whole country. Infrastructure must therefore be defined broadly to include highways and roads of all kinds including rural roads, railways, air and water transport, irrigation, electric power, telecommunications, water supply and sewerage system," Dr Singh said. He underscored the need for private participation for achieving the \$1 trillion investment target but noted that the lack of financial viability of many of the projects could come in the way. The prime minister exuded confidence in the Indian economy saying it would grow by 8.5% next fiscal and 9% a year later against 7.2% estimated in the current fiscal. He said a growth rate of 10%, though ambitious, was not impossible and would hinge on "continual improvement in our policy regime and our implementation procedures." "These rates are well above what is seen in the developed worlds, and reflect the underlying strengths of our economy," he added. Singh said, double-digit growth would not happen automatically and would require infrastructure development across the country to make it inclusive.

India 'Attractive and Dynamic' Investment Destination for US

India

invited US companies to take advantage of its rapid growth and help shape the country into a world-class manufacturing hub with greater investment in its infrastructure. "Just as our strategic partnership has matured and grown, Indo-US trade and investment has increased dramatically over the past 20 years", India's Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said at a gathering of top US and Indian business executives hosted by the US-India Business Council (USIBC). The Minister asked the private sectors of both countries to

establish partnerships and commence new ventures that will demonstrate the mutually beneficial nature of the US-India commercial relationship. "We now seek collaboration focused on investment in India's manufacturing sector and the build-out of the country's infrastructure, shaping the country into a world-class manufacturing hub", adding that India was also creating national investment and manufacturing zones to attract more foreign interest. The first of these would be in Rajasthan, alongside the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor. "We want these manufacturing zones to be incubators of new innovations and new technologies." USIBC president Ron Somers noted, "The next phase of the trade and investment relationship will feature the innovations of the Small and Medium Enterprise sectors in India and the US, where fresh ideas and technologies will spur economic growth in both countries."

According to the US Consul General to South India, US sees India as an 'attractive and dynamic' investment destination, and increasing number of US companies were 'expected' to invest in India in 2010. "Lot of US companies are investing in India to bring products and technology to participate in India's growth. And we expect to see more investment," he said on the sidelines of a press conference organised by US-based BorgWarner to announce their new Indian operations at a cost of Rs300 million.

Banking Services in All Indian Villages by 2012

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to draw a roadmap by March 2010 to provide financial services to all villages with a population of over 2,000 by March 2012. As part of the central bank's strategy on financial inclusion, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee urged the bankers to change their "mindset to reach out to the unreached and under-reached segments of our population". Banks would have to harness technology and innovate low-cost business models to accomplish the target in as many of the 600,000 villages across the country, he said. "All domestic public and private sector commercial banks have agreed to come up with their specific, board approved financial inclusion plans (FIPs) by March 2010 to be rolled out over the next three years," said RBI Governor Subbarao.

India, leading exporter of generic medicines

India tops in exporting generic medicines and currently, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is one of the world's largest and most developed, said the Union minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Srikanta Jena. India exports to more than 200 countries around the globe including the highly regulated markets of US, Europe, Japan and Australia. "The Indian pharmaceutical industry, has shown tremendous progress in terms of infrastructure development, technology, human resource with a wide range of products. It has established its presence and has shown determination to flourish in a changing environment", Jena said. India now ranks 3rd worldwide in volume and 14th in terms of value. The industry now produces bulk drugs belonging to all major therapeutic groups requiring complicated manufacturing technologies. According to the Market Report review of the Indian pharmaceuticals market, 2009, the Indian pharmaceutical industry grew at 13% annually during 2003-2007, driven by rising consumption levels in the country and strong demand from export markets. In 2006-07, the Indian pharma market reached US\$ 8.16 b and was estimated to reach US\$ 9.77 b in 2007-08. The global market was estimated to register sales of US\$ 743 b in 2008 with a growth of 5-6% compared with 6-7% in 2007; the growth accelerates in the seven "pharmerging" markets of India, China, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea, Turkey and Russia, and is expected to grow by 12-13% in 2008 to US\$ 85-90 b; generic producing companies like India's Ranbaxy and Dr Reddy's Labs have become dominant as they keep launching more and more generics; India currently has more than 80 FDA-approved plants, followed by Italy (55) and China (27).

Bharti Airtel Acquires Africa's Zain Telecom

India's leading mobile telephony company, Bharti Airtel acquired Zain Telecom's 15-country Africa

operations for a total enterprise value of \$10.7 billion. The acquisition is the second largest by an Indian company since Tata Steel's \$13.6-b acquisition of Anglo-Dutch steel maker Corus. Bharti will make a total payout of \$9 b after discounting \$1.7 b of debt. According to the consulting firm BDA India, the combined entity will have 163.5 m subscribers with Zain Africa contributing 41.9 m and Airtel 121.6 m.

Engineering solutions company **Hindustan Dorr-Oliver (HDO)**, part of Hyderabad-based IVRCL Infrastructures and Projects Ltd, acquired Sheffield-based DavyMarkham, a 180-year-old company involved in design, manufacture and assembly of large equipment used in mining, power, oil, gas and nuclear sectors.

Financial services company **Religare Enterprises** acquired majority stake in Northgate Capital, an international private equity company having offices in London and San Francisco.

Elgi Equipments (EEL), a manufacturer of industrial compressors, has approved a €700,000 worth acquisition of Belair S.A of France, a company engaged in assembly, sales and service of industrial compressors, piping, fittings and accessories.

Supersonic And Ballistic Missiles Test-Fired

India successfully test-fired Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from a vertical launcher fitted in a moving warship INS Ranvir off the Orissa coast. The missile performed supersonic manoeuvring following the exact flight path and homed on to the decommissioned target ship INS Meen. The missile, which has a range of 290-km and flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach, can take on a target lying anywhere in the 360-degree range of the ship. Defence Research and Development Organisation along with Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya is jointly designing and developing the BRAHMOS missiles, which are capable of carrying conventional warheads up to 200-300 kg. Separately, indigenously developed ballistic missiles 'Prithvi-II' and 'Dhanush' were successfully test-fired from different locations off the Orissa coast. Nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Agni-I ballistic missile with a range of 700 km was successfully flight-tested from the Wheeler's Island off the Orissa coast. While the 'Prithvi-II' was test-fired from Chandipur, 15 km from Balasore, from a mobile launcher, the 'Dhanush' was fired from INS-Subhadra in the Bay of Bengal near Puri. Prithvi, the first ballistic missile developed under India's prestigious Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, has a range of 295 km and capability to carry 500 kg of warhead using liquid propulsion twine engine. The 350-km range, nuclear-capable 'Dhanush', the naval version of Prithvi will give the Navy the capability to attack enemy targets with great precision. The 14-metre tall Agni-I is a single-stage, solid propelled weapon system and is capable of carrying a payload of 1,000 kg.

Indian Army Develops Blinding Chili Grenade

India has unveiled the latest hot new weapon - a grenade made using the *bhut jolokia*, officially recognized as the world's hottest chilli by Guinness World Records, a thousand times stronger than the average cooking spice. Military experts in India have developed the new crowd control grenade packed with ground seeds from the chili. When deployed the grenade showers the targets with a dust so spicy that in trials, subjects were blinded for hours and left with breathing problems. The hotness of the *bhut jolokia*, which is native to Assam, in north-east India, measured in Scoville heat units is massive at 1,001,304 - that is nearly twice as hot as Mexico's red savina that used to hold the record at 577,000.

GE Healthcare's India focus

GE Healthcare, the US \$17-billion division of General Electric Company, rolled out its first computer tomography (CT) system manufactured in India. It also announced its plans of expanding its Bangalore manufacturing operations. The CT system manufacturing facility has a yearly capacity of 40 units. GE Healthcare has plans to augment its network to tap opportunities in tier-II and tier-III towns, tying up with companies that sell healthcare products and have a distribution

network, to reach healthcare practitioners. Import of medical imaging equipment, like CT and MRI systems and nuclear medicine have long waiting periods. GE Healthcare's efforts to produce more high-end products locally is aimed at making many of these more affordable for practitioners, especially those who need such technologies in tier-II and III towns.

TCS Bags US\$901.5 m Deal

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest software exporter by revenue, would administer the UK's National Employee Savings Trust (NEST) scheme's administered services under a 10-year deal, worth around US \$901.5 million. Other than TCS, three more firms were invited to participate in the competitive dialogue: Arbejdsmarkedet Tillaegspension (ATP) Group; Great-West Retirement Services (Europe) and Logica UK.

Indian Workforce Most Mobile In World

The 'work monitor' survey by global HR service provider Ma Foi Randstad measures the extent to which employees were thinking of changing their jobs in the short-term compared with other countries in the world. "India's mobility index is 140 - the highest in the world - followed by Mexico, China and Turkey. This index shows that Indians are most open about shifting their jobs in the next six months," the survey said. The survey revealed employees in the salary bracket of \$10,000-25,000 were the least mobile in India, while in the US the professionals in junior to mid career (\$45,000-50,000 salary brackets) levels are the most mobile. In India, employees in Bangalore were the most mobile. The key reasons for employees looking for a change include better job opportunity, desire for change, personal ambitions and dissatisfaction with present employer. Comparing salary-wise, the main reason for job change in the higher income brackets was due to organizational circumstances. Moreover, the people aged between 25-44 years were confident of finding jobs in the short-term.

Scriptures cannot transcend reason and truth. They are intended to purify and illuminate truth.
-Mahatma Gandhi

Biometric Identity Project In India

Government of India has undertaken a mammoth project of assigning all Indians a unique identity number backed by their biometric details and storing the information in a gigantic online database. The new system being dubbed as the "turbocharged version" of the Social Security number is expected to cut fraud, resulting in government savings of \$4 billion a year by preventing the theft of public funds. "The unique identity will bring in financial inclusion and will also help national security in the long term," said Nandan Nilekani. About 600 million Indians would receive a 16-digit identity number by 2014 in the first phase of the project. The entire project, which includes fingerprints and iris scans, is expected to be finished in eight years. The biometric identity number will be entered every time someone accesses services from government departments, driver's license offices and hospitals, as well as insurance, credit card, telecom and banking companies. The government also plans to use the database to monitor bank transactions, cellphone purchases, and the movements of individuals and groups suspected of fomenting terrorism.

Prime Minister To Get World Statesman Award

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation announced that it would felicitate Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with its prestigious World Statesman Award for the year 2010. Indian Ambassador to the US Meera Shankar said the PM had graciously accepted the award. Among the past recipients of this prestigious award include British Prime Minister Gordon Brown (2009), French President Nicolas Sarkozy (2008), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (2007) and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (2006). The Appeal of Conscience Foundation was founded by Rabbi Arthur Schneier in 1965. It has worked on behalf of religious freedom and human rights throughout the world. This interfaith coalition of business, religious and

foreign policy leaders promotes peace, tolerance and ethnic conflict resolution. It also provides a voice of conscience to protect minorities at a time of increasing ethnic conflict in many regions of the world.

Three Indians Among Asia's Top Women

Three Indians - Congress president Sonia Gandhi, ICICI Bank head Chanda Kochhar, and PepsiCo chief executive Indra Nooyi - have been named among Asia's eight top power women by American broadcaster *CNN*. China-based Nine Dragons Paper Holdings' Zhang Yin topped the list, followed by Nooyi at the second spot. Sonia Gandhi was ranked third, while Kochhar was fifth. Kochhar in 2009 was named among Forbes' 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women'. On Sonia Gandhi, *CNN* notes, "Under her leadership, the Congress became the Lok Sabha's single largest political party. Sonia is also big on austerity, travelling economy class on a 2009 flight and urging MPs to contribute their salary to the drought victims," the report says. About the Chennai-born Indra Nooyi, *CNN* says as the PepsiCo chief she lords over some 1,85,000 corporate minions in close to 200 countries. "Nooyi's hard-as-nails leadership and her sense of fun has earned her spots on many 'best leader' lists in the US," the report notes.

India Makes Mark On Forbes Rich List

Eight Indians figured on Forbes magazine's latest list of the top 100 billionaires, and two-energy tycoon Mukesh Ambani and steel mogul Lakshmi Mittal-were in the top 5. Ambani is now the fourth richest person in the world, and the richest person in the Asia-Pacific region. Ten of Asia's top 25 billionaires are Indian, while one is from China. With 49 billionaires in 2010-up from 24 in 2009-India is one of only 11 nations to have more than doubled the number of billionaires, a sign of how it weathered the economic downturn better than most recession-wracked economies in the West.

Maharaja Express from Kolkata To Delhi

Equipped with LCD TVs, panoramic windows and Wi-Fi internet connectivity, the new Maharaja Express promises to make the journey from Kolkata to Delhi a royal experience. The train boasts of elegant features and international-level comfort. The journey from Kolkata to Delhi by Maharajas' Express has been christened Celestial India. It will cover pilgrim and tourist centres like Gaya and Varanasi, the Bandhavgarh forests, Khajuraho, Agra and Gwalior before terminating in Delhi. The train has five deluxe cabins, six junior suites, two suites and one grand presidential suite. The charges for the presidential suite are \$2,500 per person per day. Railways Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "It's a gift to those who want to savour royal India and can afford it. The tourists can pay in dollars or Indian currency. It's a new initiative by the Indian railways to boost tourism in our country".

Indians Bag Innovator Awards

Kranthi Kiran Vistakula, an Indian alumnus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been named the Innovator of the Year by Technology Review India, the technology magazine published by MIT. Vistakula, a postgraduate in Mechanical Engineering and Technology Policy Programme from MIT, received the honour for designing a lightweight jacket weighing 650-700 gm that can keep a user's body between 18-40* Celsius in temperatures ranging from minus 30 to plus 50. The heat exchange technology called ClimaCon applied by Vistakula could be used in infant incubators and cooling large spaces such as auditoriums. The Red Herring magazine selected Vistakula's venture, Dhama Apparel Innovations, as one of the top 100 technology companies in Asia and top 200 technology companies in the world.

Dr K R Sridhar, 49, a professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Space Technologies Laboratory (STL) at the University of Arizona has invented a clean and efficient model of power generation-in-a-box, an important breakthrough in the energy sector that could eliminate the traditional grid. He initially developed the idea while working with NASA, as a means of producing oxygen for astronauts landing on Mars.

Indian Team, Driver Win Formula-I Laurels

Vitantonio Liuzzi's ninth place finish earned Force India two invaluable points from the Bahrain Grand Prix in Sakhir on March 14. Adrian Sutil's 10th place on the starting grid had raised Force India hopes for a good finish. Liuzzi of team India Force bettered his ninth place finish in Bahrain Grand Prix and finished seventh and won six invaluable points for his team. Later, Karun Chandhok, the second Indian to race in prestigious Formula-I after Karthikeyan, was among the 14 drivers who lasted the distance in the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne. Chandhok has signed the deal with Hispania Racing team (HRT F1), renamed from the Campos Formula One team after being taken over by Spanish financier Jose Ramon Carabante. Karun has won two GP2 races in the last three years.

India's Disjointed Prosperity

This article, by Tim Sebastian, was published in the International Herald Tribune on March 15, 2010.

When Madan Lal began work here among the madness, color and chaos of the Janpath pavement, Richard Nixon was in the White House and there wasn't a main street shop anywhere in the world selling computers.

At the age of 15 he sat down on the uneven concrete, in exactly the same place occupied by his father, and began shining the shoes of tourists and anyone else with the luxury of footwear to polish.

Behind him the rickshaws and hooting cars sped past, the world underwent cosmic change and 40 years on, with considerably fewer teeth, his hands engrained with shoe polish and a dirty yellow sweatband across his forehead, he's still there.

But his is not a story of dire misfortune — at least in Indian terms. His daily income of around \$4 puts him ahead of no less than several hundred million of his countrymen, he can buy medicine for his son with a heart condition. He has married off his daughters and can afford to feed himself and his wife.

Life in India, could be and mostly is much, much worse.

And yet Mr. Lal is totally unaware of the new-age, look-at-me party India has thrown for its chattering classes; unaware that he and the other 900 million Indians who have not been invited, now risk being airbrushed from just about every picture that counts.

Don't get me wrong. India deserves its party. Its ingenuity, hard-work and brilliance in many fields provide plenty to celebrate. But increasing numbers of the non-invitees are no longer content to press their noses against the windows of the wealthy, beg at the traffic lights and hawk their new-born children around the tourist sites, hoping to prick a few foreign consciences.

The harsh fact is that a third of the country's districts are now fighting insurgencies, and unless more of India's citizens get a sense of belonging to their "shining," "incredible" country — as the PR disciples would have it — there are fears that the violence may increase substantially.

A former government minister, Mani Shankar Aiar, puts it this way: "We have a tiny elite that is obsessed with itself. If democracy doesn't deliver for the rest — we could be heading for violence. We're seeing a failure to bring 900 million people inside the system of entitlements. Without entitlements, you pick up the gun."

Pick up instead the New Delhi newspapers and you're whisked well away from any notion of a developing country and straight into cash-land India. Wherever you turn there's a blaze of

high-end promotions, designed to suck in the gigantic wealth now generated by the world's most populous and powerful middle class. Let no one forget that India is home to the fourth largest number of billionaires and to 60 million people with a higher living standard than France or Britain — and commerce across the globe is chasing their money.

The statistics of modern India are breathtaking and point to an unprecedented event — the birth of an economic giant from within the poorest country on the planet. And that is why a thousand times a day every rule is defied and, every belief undermined. Just when you think you have discovered a basic truth, it laughs at you, runs away into the crowd and disappears for good.

A former journalist recently attended the wedding of an old friend's son. He was struck that the boy was marrying someone from a lower caste. When he mentioned it to his friend, the man denied it but the old reporter persisted. "I know it may be difficult for you," he said, "but the lady is from a different caste. That's a fact."

"You don't understand," his friend told him with a shrug. "He works for Chase Manhattan, she works for Chase Manhattan. Same caste."

One government official tells me that the only way two Indians know they are from the same country is because they speak a different language, worship a different God, read different books and like different music. "On the face of it they have nothing in common. So they must be Indian."

In Western societies we have little experience of the enormous contrasts that beset India. Drive a few minutes from the Members' Enclosure at Mumbai racecourse to some of the filthiest slums in the world and the Westerner will wonder if he has just left one country and entered another. He seeks order out of the chaos, explanations, synergies. The Indian will just accept.

Years ago, when I wrote novels, my editor told me "the difference between real life and fiction is that fiction has to make sense. Real life seldom does."

It's a thought that has often come to my mind in India.

I drive north to a campus of Delhi University. By the time I arrive I have a boxful of discordant pictures and sounds. A beggar holding a dollar bill, asking for change, a cow, a McDonald's, wild monkeys swinging from buildings, birds screeching from the trees, students in designer T-shirts. Species all mixed up and thrown together. And in this buzzy, hectic pantomime there's a feeling that almost anything is possible.

I ask Madan Lal if his son will take his place on the pavement when he decides to retire. He looks up at me and smiles. "My son? No, no," he replies. "My son is going to school."

OCTAVIO PAZ ON INDIA

Nobel-laureate Octavio Paz was Mexico's Ambassador to India from 1962-68. His writings and poetry bear a clear influence of his long association with India. Beginning from the July 2009 issue, India News is carrying a series of excerpts from his well-known book, In Light of India. This does not however imply any endorsement of his opinion, assessment, or even factual accuracy.

The split between moderates and extremists paralyzed the Congress. Neither of the two groups was able to carry out successfully the movement for independence. At that moment, in 1920, Mohandas K. Gandhi became the central figure. In the same year, like a sign of new times, Tilak died, Gandhi's actions, both religious and political which, in his

case, cannot be separated not only resolved a situation that had seemed hopeless; he turned it into a triumph. The extremists also united the religious and the political, but with Gandhi the point of the union was quite different: nonviolence and friendship with the other religious communities, particularly the Muslims. Contrary to the extremists, for Gandhi politics did not expropriate religion: religion humanized politics. The Gandhian religion was not that of the orthodoxy; it was a reform version acceptable to the masses because they approved of his personal conduct. Gandhi achieved what the moderates could not: establishing deep roots among the people, and at the same time demonstrating to the extremists that tolerance and nonviolence were not incompatible with perseverance and effectiveness. For the masses, Gandhi embodied a figure venerated by all Hindus: the ascetic who renounces the world; for political and practical minds, he was a man of action, capable of speaking both to the masses and with the authorities, skilled in negotiation and incorruptible in his principles.

This fusion of the religious and the political, of asceticism and pragmatism, is only one aspect of the startling concordance of contradictions that made Gandhi a unique figure. He was a traditional Hindu but also a Westerner. The influence of the West was profound and is clearly perceptible in his political thinking and in his religion, the two inseparable sides of his personality. His political actions were not founded on any Hindu tradition, but rather on the pacifism of Leo Tolstoy; his ideas of social reform are closer to Kropotkin than to the Laws of Manu; behind his idea of passive resistance lies Thoreau's "civil disobedience." His family was Vishnuite, and he himself was an ardent devotee of Vishnu, yet he read the Bhagavad-Gita in the English translation by Sir Edwin Arnold. In Gandhi, the Jain tradition of nonviolence (ahimsa) was fused with the activism of a Tolstoy or a Thoreau. (In 1847, Thoreau went to jail rather than pay the taxes for the Americana war against Mexico). Nonviolence in India has a double basis: one, political and ethical, which is Western; the other, religious, which is Jain. I should emphasize that Jainism, although it has been integrated into the Hindu tradition, has always been viewed by the orthodox as a tendency that does not belong in the pluralism of Hinduism.

Jain cosmology affirms the solidarity of all living things: to commit an act of violence against one creature, no matter how small, is to sin against the entire cosmos. I remember my astonishment when I saw a group of Jain monks – who have, by the way, prodigious memories – with their mouths covered by a piece of cloth so as not to inhale, and inadvertently kill, any insects. The "gymnosophist" (that is, naked) philosophers who amazed Alexander and his retinue with the subtlety of their reasoning and the rigor of their austerities were probably Jains.

Many prosperous jewelers and merchants in India are also Jain. In spite of their tenet of nonviolence, writers A.L. Basham, "Jain ethical writings often have a rather chilly character, their altruism motivated by a higher selfishness." Jain pragmatism is perceptible in Gandhi, though without the frigidity. His genius consisted in transforming the nonviolence of personal religious morals into a collective crusade that inspired millions. Although the Congress Party was always a secular movement, it was subject to various religious influences, all of them Hindus. This was its great failure: it never could attract a sufficient number of Muslims. Here too, although he was not successful, Gandhi was an exception: he stretched out his hand to the Muslims and Sikhs. Religion did not impede his pragmatic and realistic politics; politics, in turn, did not strain or confuse his faith.

...to be continued

TRADE ENQUIRIES FROM INDIA

Company	Commercial Interest
<p>Basar Exports Private Limited C/1 Dalal Estate, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008. Tel: (22) 2300 1572, Fax: (22) 2300 8106 Contact Person: M.Siddiq Basar Email: info@basarexports.com Website: www.basarexports.com</p>	Polyester sewing thread
<p>Utsav Exim Limited 1/95 WHS Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015. Tel: (11) 6465 3400, Fax: (11) 4553 6863 Contact Person: Yogesh Koshik, Vice President Email: yogesh@utsav.co.in Website: www.utsav.co.in, www.utsavexim.com</p>	Aluminium Scrap, Renewable Energy and Environmental Technology for Construction Materials
<p>Legends Overseas Private Limited 73, 3rd Floor, Aditya Estate, Chincholi Bunder Extension Road, Mindspace, Off.Link Road, Malad (West), Mumbai-400064. Tel: (22) 3242 0811, 4021 4001, 6512 4001 Fax: (22) 4021 4001, Mobile: 98673 72127 Contact Person: Mr.Tejas Prem Prakash Muraka Email: legenoverseas@gmail.com Website: www.loplindia.com</p>	Incense
<p>Telenet Systems Private Limited 2, Mani Bhuvan, Cama Road, Ghatkopar, Mumbai-400086. Tel: (22) 2513 3242, 2513 8325, Fax: (22) 2510 4911 Contact Person: S. Dharmarajan, Vice President Email: impex@telenetsystems.com, dharmarajan@telenetsystems.com, Website: www.telenetsystems.com</p>	Telecommunication & Networking products
<p>Mr. Piyush Taletiya 138, Krishana pura, Udaipur, Rajasthan Mobile: 90017 87079 Contact Person: Mr. Piyush Taletiya Email: piyushtaletiya91@gmail.com</p>	Natural stones and Stone Handicrafts
<p>Jodas Expoin Private Limited 718/21, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005. Tel: (751) 4048 739, Mobile: 91799 61913 Contact Person: Dr. Sanjay Loomba, Director Email: loombas@yahoo.com, jodasexp@gmail.com</p>	Finished Pharmaceutical Products
<p>Hari Agro Products Sappanipatti Village, P.O.Karagur, Krishnagiri - Taluk & District, Tamil Nadu-635111 Mobile: 97862 49454 Contact Person: Senthil Kumar Email: trade@hariagroproducts.com, info@hariagroproducts.com, Website: www.hariagroproducts.com</p>	Fruits & Vegetables, and products

<p>P S S Krishnamurthi Exports Private Limited C18, SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Tuticorin-628008. Contact Person: Raja Sankaralingam, Director Email: psskraj@dataone.in</p>	Herbs & herbal teas
<p>Alpha Chemika Mohid Heights, Unit No.5, 4th Floor, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400053. Tel: (22) 6521 8147, 4016 5752, 2636 2214, 4016 5753 Fax: (22) 2631 7055 Contact Person: Tanmay Mahajan, Director, Exports Email: tanmay12@airtelmail.in Website: www.alphalabchem.com</p>	Scientific equipments, Lab chemicals, Glassware and Plastic ware (for School & Colleges, Research, Dental and Universities)
<p>Om Merchant Exporter Private Limited 10/15, Basement, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060. Mobile: 99901 56464 Contact Person: Joy Singha Roy, Director Email: om.merchant.exporter@gmail.com</p>	CTC Teas and organic teas
<p>Natural Slate and Sandstone Exports Private Limited 104, Scheme No. 8, Gandhi Path, Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur - 302021. Tel: (141) 2352 837, 5175 265, 5175 289 Fax: (141) 2353 024, 5175 187 Contact Person: Surender M. Sharma, Executive Director Email: logistics@nnstones.com Website: www.nnstones.com</p>	Marbles and Granites
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