

OPINION

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COVER STORY

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Copenhagen pact: Victory for India, loss for humanity



Although the Copenhagen Accord did not manage to make climate commitments legally binding, it will probably have far-reaching consequences in the years to come. Beyond emission cuts, de-carbonisation and technology transfers, the overarching significance of Copenhagen lies in the manner in which it exemplifies how the geo-strategic contours of the 21st century have begun shifting.

The Copenhagen summit is important for a variety of tangible and intangible reasons including mode and modalities of conduct amongst negotiating parties and their hierarchical positioning in the new world order.

The new power contours and their projections are in a state-of-flux. They are not as yet completely defined but are clearly identifiable. In Copenhagen, the metamorphoses of old and new alliances around multiple centres of power, herald the emergence of the new multi-polar world. In the end, the "Copenhagen Accord" was the summit's main outcome: not the Danish draft but a US-BASIC - Brazil, South Africa, India, China - accord that surgically cut most nations out of the final deal-making process.

The breakthrough was a political coup for China and India in concluding the Copenhagen Accord with the United States behind closed doors, with Brazil and South Africa allowed in the room, and Europe left outside?

Power shift or power centre apart, the sheer greed of human race has forced planet earth to behave strangely in the last few years; alarming rise in sea water level due to global warming is threatening the existence of many coastal countries. Increase in floods and droughts have raised serious questions on food security and drinking water for the coming generations, many species are disappearing on regular basis from our planet and human beings are helplessly watching the events. Summits and agreement like Copenhagen Accord that offer no solutions unless people at large resolve to live with the nature within limited resources available.

In the 21st century, we are much more connected with each other digitally and the spiritual or trans-physical connections, events, happenings - that have always been there - are beginning to demonstrate their own unifying presence via showers of synchronicity, that portend the Singularity via self-explaining signs or signatures.

Those signatures come in the shape of events, happenings or connections that we may call "Haps!" Synchronicity is obvious with the rising level of individual and collective consciousness in regard to our holistic inter-connectivity in space and time enabled physically, digitally and through the primordial and ever present transcendental heightened connectivity. More connectivity creates the opportunity for more Haps taking place in unison! We should listen to our Conscious to collectively work for a better place to live.

We would like to greet our readership on the occasion of New Year-2010, magazine will continue to focus on targeting a high-end, savvy readership that mirrors the sensibilities and spirits of the unique, vibrant global Indian & PIO/NRI communities. It is published from India, Mauritius and Dubai shortly from US, UK and South Africa. e-zine can be freely downloaded online, just enter Opinion Express in Google search to reach us. We are promoting green technology and business hence we would like our readers to shift to online reading to save paper. You can directly contribute in making the earth greener and vibrant. Internet is a remarkable tool to save many physical resources and we should make full use of the available technology.

Finally, Opinion Express group will be shortly announcing electronic media venture to keep up the business expansion pace and high aspiration of its patrons and shareholders.

— Prashant Tewari

COVER STORY

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

P6-16



HALL OF FAME
**AMBANI IN
TOP LEAGUE**
P26

CONCERN
**ANDHRA BOILING
OVER TELENGANA**
P17



P34
**FASHION
STAR ON
THE HORIZON**

P5 In News: **BJP's ironman finally walks into sunset**

P23 Second Opinion: **Why Raj Thackeray should be taken seriously**

P28 Trendz: **The gaping chasm between physics and commerce**

P31 Diplomacy: **Why India can't trust China, explains former NSA**

P36 Down Memory Lane: **Politics with conviction, Chandra Shekhar style**

P50 Postscript: **India to grow 8-9 per cent in next two years, say World Bank**



CHANGE OF GUARD: ADVANI'S DEPARTURE IS THE END OF AN ERA IN BJP

Ironman walks into sunset

It's the end of an era for the BJP. L.K. Advani has been promoted to Chairman of the BJP Parliamentary Party. This is a new post created for him with the party amending its constitution.

Political analysts describe this as a graceful exit for the veteran leader. Advani is expected to play mentor now to the party's Gen Next, that took over its new role on Friday.

Sushma Swaraj takes over from Advani as the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha. Arun Jaitley is Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

After the official change of guard, Advani said, "I am not retiring from politics. My yatras will continue."

Nitin Gadkari, formally took over as the BJP president on Saturday. There is a consensus in the BJP Parliamentary Board on the name of Gadkari, Rajnath said. Senior BJP leader L.K. Advani and newly-elected Leader of the Opposition Sushma Swaraj was also present on the occasion. The leaders congratulated Gadkari.



On record, the RSS gave its blessing to Nitin Gadkari as the new BJP President months ago. While his approval ratings may be high among the old guard, and it's clear that he positions himself as a modernizer.

There is little strident ideology. Instead, the focus is on his accomplishments like giving Nagpur a new face when he was the city's Guardian Minister, or adding flyovers during his stint as Public Works Minister. Pride of place goes to his flagship project, the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

It could be this focus on modernization, combined with his Nagpur origins, that clinched the promotion for Gadkari, who is currently head of the Maharashtra unit of his party. But the challenges before him now are considerable.

Analysts say the changes bear the stamp of the BJP's parent body, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS).

NEW ORDER: NITIN GADKARI, THE NEWLY ANNOINTED NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF BJP



on path to...

CALAMITY

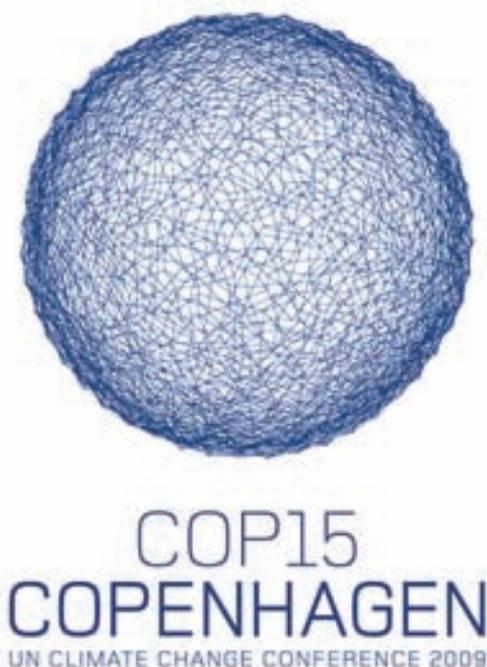
COVER STORY

CONTROL



Copenhagen Accord Heralds Geo-Political Power Shift

DK MATAI



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A GIANT GLOBE PLACED OUTSIDE A SHOPPING MALL DURING THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009 IN COPENHAGEN

The new power contours and their projections are in a state-of-flux. They are not as yet completely defined but are clearly identifiable. In Copenhagen, the metamorphoses of old and new alliances around multiple centres of power, herald the emergence of the new multi-polar world. In the end, the "Copenhagen Accord" was the summit's main outcome: not the Danish draft but a US-BASIC – Brazil, South Africa, India, China – accord that surgically cut most nations out of the final deal-making process. The breakthrough was a political coup for China and India in concluding the Copenhagen Accord with the United States behind closed doors, with Brazil and South Africa allowed in the room, and Europe left outside?

History may come to note that the greatest loser of the new geo-political power map that emerged in Copenhagen was Europe. For the developing world, some European nations hypocrisy was embodied in their preaching of climate chaos urgency on the one hand, while on

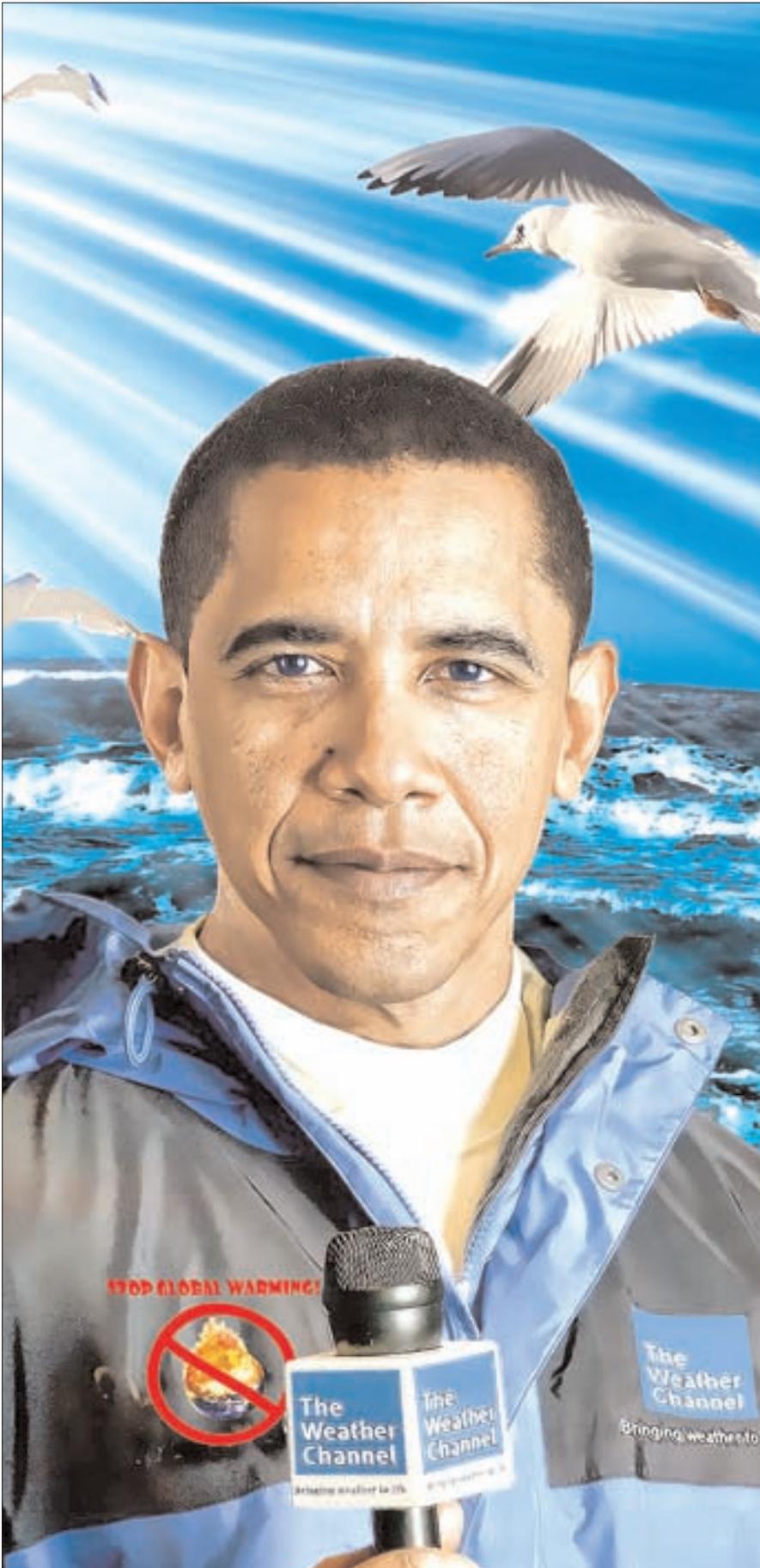
History may come to note that the greatest loser of the new geo-political power map that emerged in Copenhagen was Europe. For the developing world, some European nations hypocrisy was embodied in their preaching of climate chaos urgency on the one hand, while on the other attempting to free themselves from the Kyoto Protocol commitments.

the other attempting to free themselves from the Kyoto Protocol commitments. Europe's Trans-Atlantic ally, the US, sought to conclude its closed-door deal with the BASIC group, leaving Europe still

tied to legally binding emission cuts under the Kyoto Protocol, while Washington got its desired non-binding pledge and review system in place for the future.

The Europeans agreed to the weak outcome largely because of one breakthrough: for the first time, the US, with BASIC – Brazil, South Africa, India and China – nations as well as Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea and Singapore have put on paper, measures to curb emissions. Although the "new" world as revealed by Copenhagen's power shift is clearly multi-polar, the climate summit has also shown that while all poles are equal, some, or more precisely two poles – the G-2 – are more equal than all others!

In Copenhagen, there may have been the G77 (the loose coalition of developing nations at the United Nations chaired by Sudan), the Umbrella Group (the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand), the AOSIS (Association of Small Island States), the LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India and China)



LOW ON DELIVERY?: US PRESIDENT OBAMA HAD AN ACCORD WITH BASIC NATIONS AFTER INITIAL LACKLUSTRE SHOW (COURTESY: FREAKYNEWS.COM)

group, but over and above all these alliances, there was a G-2 universally acknowledged as holding the trump cards to any significant deal, comprising the US and China. Copenhagen has demonstrated how the line dividing the world into North and South, rich and poor, is no longer straightforward or even appropriate. Between these two poles, there is now a distinct core of BASIC countries in the "centre" of the emergent multi-polar world.

The nearest thing to a commitment in Copenhagen was the promise by the developed world to pay the developing world \$30 billion of "climate aid" over the next three years, rising to \$100 billion a year from 2020. Not only is that not legally binding, but there is no agreement whatsoever about which countries it will go to, in which amounts, and on what conditions and under which specific mechanisms.

A number of delegations publicly expressed their approval of it during the final Conference of Parties (COP) plenary session. The Convention Secretariat is setting up a process for governments to associate themselves with the Accord, and the names of their countries will be formally listed alongside the text.

The words "legally binding" were conspicuously removed from earlier drafts of the Accord by delegations that were not yet ready to enter into a legally binding instrument. The Accord is "politically binding" for those countries that choose to sign up to it. A number of delegations publicly expressed their approval of it during the final Conference of Parties (COP) plenary session.

The Convention Secretariat is setting up a process for governments to associate themselves with the Accord, and the names of their countries will be formally listed alongside the text. But "politically binding" is not the same as "legally binding." Politically binding means that political consequences will flow from its breach, ie, diplomatic responses, efforts at public shaming, withholding of discretionary funding, etc. In this sense, the Accord can be considered a strong, high

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

the DEAL

US President Barack Obama reached a climate agreement with India, South Africa, China and Brazil. The deal outlined fell far short of the ambitions for the Copenhagen summit. It has disappointed large number of countries though indicates global power shift to a new arrangement.

long-term GOALS

"Deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science...with a view to reduce global emissions so as to hold the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius."

legally-binding ACCORD

A proposal attached to the accord calls for a legally binding treaty to be pinned down by the end of next year.

financing for POOR NATIONS

The text says: "Developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries." It mentions as particularly vulnerable and in need of help are the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries in Africa. "Developed countries set a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. The funds will come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral." An annex carries the following short-term financing pledges from developed countries for 2010-2012:

EU - \$10.6 billion; Japan - \$11 billion

United States - \$3.6 billion

emission REDUCTION

Details of mitigation plans are included in two separate annexes, one for developed country targets and one for the voluntary pledges of major developing countries.

These are not binding, and describe the current status of pledges -- ranging from "under consideration" for the United States to "Adopted by legislation" for the European Union.

the VERIFICATION

A sticking point for a deal, largely because China refused to accept international controls, the section on monitoring of developing nation pledges is one of the longest in the accord.

It says emerging economies must monitor their efforts and report the results to the United Nations every two years, with some international checks to meet Western transparency concerns but "to ensure that national sovereignty is respected".

The accord "recognises the importance of reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation and the need to enhance removals or greenhouse gas emission by forests", and agrees to provide "positive incentives" to fund such action with financial resources from the developed world.

carbon MARKETS

Mentioned, but not in detail. The accord says: "We decide to pursue various approaches, including opportunities to use markets to enhance the cost-effectiveness of and to promote mitigations actions."



GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS PROTEST THE RECENT COPENHAGEN CLIMATE SUMMIT WITH A SIGN THAT READS IN SPANISH 'POLITICIANS FAILED. RESOLVE YOUR CLIMATE DISASTER!'

level commitment by the countries that have adhered to it and not much more.

Significantly, the Conference of Parties (COP) did not "adopt" the Copenhagen Accord at the UNFCCC in Copenhagen or

COP-15. The COP "took note" of the Copenhagen Accord. Decisions by the COP require a consensus (if any Party present formally objects to a decision, it can block its adoption). That level of con-

sensus was not possible in this case, and the COP rules don't enable voting. While the 25 or so countries that were asked by the COP President to participate in a high level meeting of the "friends of the

President" eventually accepted the Accord, at least four Parties spoke out against it: Tuvalu, Sudan, Bolivia and Venezuela. In any event, COP decisions – even those agreed to by all parties – cannot by themselves legally bind Parties.

The reasons for the imperfect outcome of Copenhagen are both fundamental and irresolvable. The most important reason being the economic cost of decarbonising the world's economies, which is massive, and of at least the same order of magnitude as any promised benefits. Switching to much more expensive energy may be acceptable to us in the largely western developed world, although there is no present evi-

The Copenhagen accord reaffirms that we shouldn't allow the temperature to rise more than 2 °Celsius. However, a leaked US report has found that pledged emission cuts would likely to allow far more warming

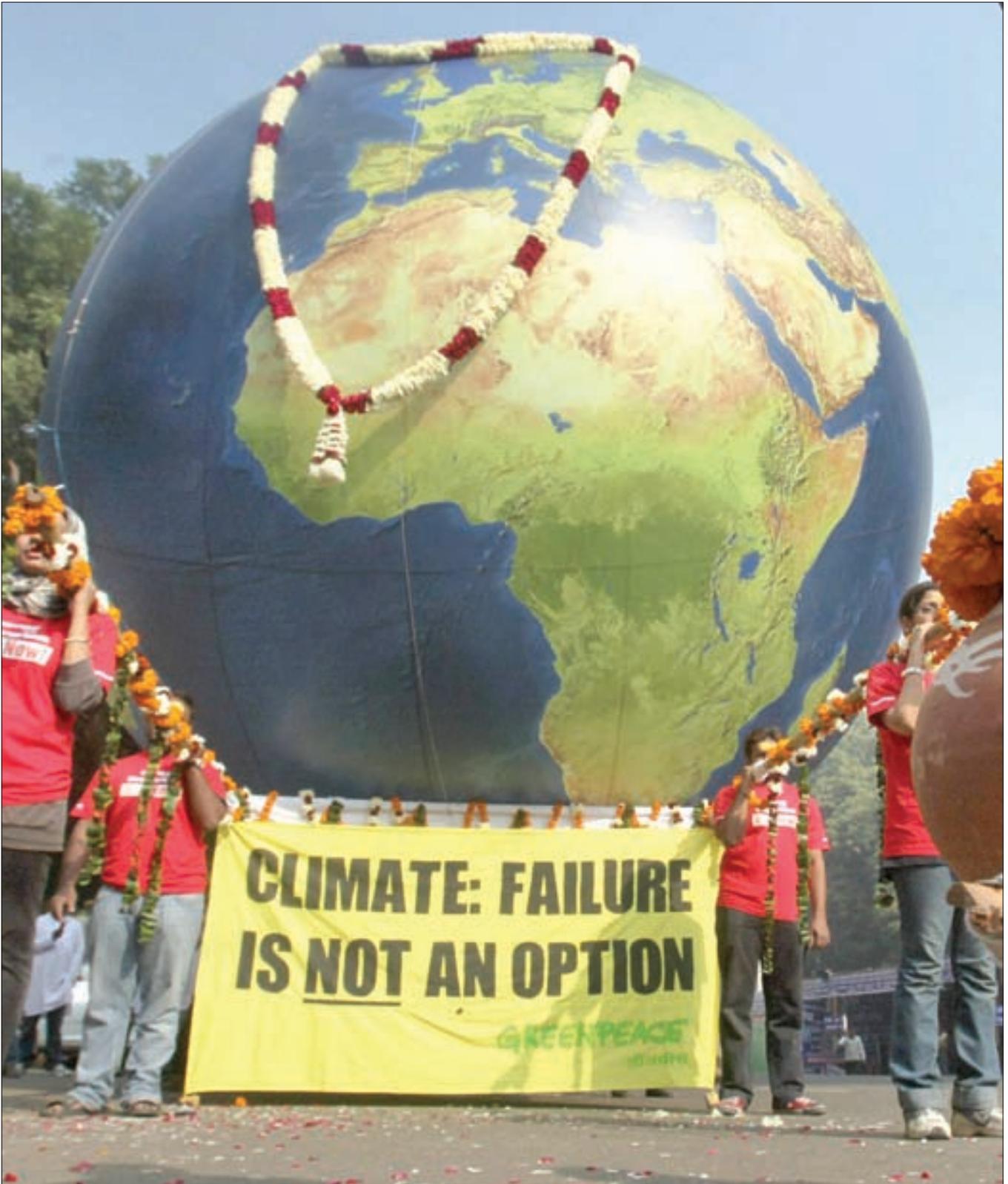
dence of our willingness to do so. However, in the developing world – including the fast developing China and India – there are still hundreds of millions of people suffering from extreme poverty, and from the consequences of such poverty: malnutrition, preventable disease and premature mortality. So for the developing world, the overriding priority is the fastest possible growth rate of economic development. This means having no restrictions to use the most readily available source of energy, ie, carbon energy from native coal reserves and other traditional fuels. The developed countries argument that the developing world should make the economic, social and human sacrifice to benefit future generations, a century hence, is perceived by some nations as all the less compelling given that these future generations will, despite any problems caused by global warming, be many times more well off than the people of the developing world are at present.

The Copenhagen accord reaffirms the science that we shouldn't allow the temperature to rise more than two degrees Celsius. However, a leaked United Nations report has found that pledged emission cuts would likely to allow far more warming than the two degrees Celsius threshold, beyond which most scientists say global warming could have catastrophic consequences.

(Chairman and Founder: *mi2g.net*,
ATCA, *The Philanthropia*)



LAST RITES?: AN ACTIVIST FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP GREENPEACE PLACES ONE OF A HUNDRED CROSSES AT THE CENOTAPH MEMORIAL IN HONGKONG



Will you please all rise
above **YOUR** meanness?

Diwakar Shetty plays Planet Earth to depict the plight of our planet. In a polite address to fellow human beings, he is touching the concerns we shall be facing in near future...



GROWING CONCERN : PROTESTERS SHOW THEIR CONCERN OVER MENACE OF GLOBAL WARMING

I am planet Earth. Today I am here to express my concerns over my future and the issue of "Global Warming" that threatens the very survival of humanity. All these thousands of years, despite of great compassion, love and life I gave to you all, you humans did all possible to see how much I can bare. You never understood, in fact never tried to understand that I too have some limits. Now when I am weakened almost to death I believe you all will seriously bring out some solutions to overcome my illness as it directly relates to your future as well. Global warming, the widely highlighted term and favorite debatable topic of the society, is ruining the world.

Everybody, from every corner of the world, will share their view over global warming and will suggest things which they themselves don't follow. Highly qualified people from across country had met in Copenhagen but unfortunately no great decisions were taken for it. This is be-

Highly qualified people from across the world had met in Copenhagen but unfortunately no great decisions were taken for it. This is because everybody is looking into others plate...

Everybody has their own country to look upon and if everyone, without making it global issue, tries and improves there own perspective, Global Warming is no

cause everybody is looking into others plate but nobody is worried about their own table. Everybody has their own country to look upon and if everyone, without

making it global issue, tries and improves there own perspective, Global Warming is no big deal.

Since last one month I was excited and happy to know that the light of hope have been light up by UN talks in Copenhagen to aim to keep global warming in check by demanding massive greenhouse gas emission cuts. I was expecting you all to move forward and make a simple plea to seal the deal which will save me, my people and my cultural heritage. But what happened at Copenhagen was a reflection of usual mean nature of human; you kept on talking procedures, social justice and compensation of the damage done to your development prospects. What social justice when there will be no society, what compensation when there will be no life??

I may now start believing what my dear friend Moon had once said to me, "your time is over dear Earth, it's me now who is the next target of human".



ACT NOW: THE TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR ALL OF US

After this failed effort at COP15 the blame game is bound to start among the developed and developing countries, also the so called critics would start finding out the reasons of failure of summit of such kind and importance. But, I am no human, I would still like to thank Denmark and UN for atleast making an effort so that atleast we see some reaction, to the action.

As far as the failure of summit is concerned I would raise only two points, first, the proposal and second, the solution.

First, seeing the nature of human and time, you simply cannot propose countries to come forward and contribute on the cost of their own development, second, the compensation is not the solution to the actual development. To climb up the sky we must have base to put ladder, development itself is the base as well as process of life.

So keeping the pace of development without affecting the life of people, I see only one solution and that is not to stop, but, to change the track of development

from artificial to real development. The quick, huge and transparent investment in renewable energy industries could be the fast healing solution to our problem. Renewable energy needs exactly the type of long-term visibility and planning that you had in the oil and gas industry, in that once you understand the possibilities, you make sure the regulatory framework is there. And as far as money is concerned half the money could be found by eliminating subsidies to the oil and coal companies in the industrial world. 'The world wastes some \$300 billion a year in fossil

Technologies being developed by KRG India Research centre and other companies are critical tools for effectively managing scarce water problems. But besides technical development the governments must do more to help shape the understanding of how good policies make it possible for technologies to be useful.

fuel subsidies – \$60 billion of which is spent in OECD countries.'

And where the temperature of inner crust and visible problem of water scarcity is concerned, the harvesting of rain water is the 100% solution to the problem. Water scarcity is one of the great challenges of the 21st century, and now it is time when world leaders, business leaders and policy makers must make water industry the most important industry of our time. To overcome water scarcity, we will need to introduce new technologies for better managing water as a resource, and to implement these technologies perfectly we need to work more efficiently.

Technologies being developed by KRG India Research centre and other companies are critical tools for effectively managing scarce water problems. But besides technical development the governments must do more to help shape the understanding of how good policies make it possible for technologies to be useful. A policy has to be of kind where technologies can enable society to get more products, more food, more income and more energy per drop of water. For say agriculture accounts for more than 75% percent of water consumption in the developing countries and because the productivity gains of the last round of agricultural technologies



TRAPPED: A POLAR BEAR ON AN ISLAND CREATED BY MELTING GLACIER

(the "green revolution") has fallen to less than 1 percent a year (from about 3 percent a year in the 1960s), the development in productivity-enhancing seeds and agricultural technologies is need of our, these innovations are vital for better water management. You just have to change attitude towards way of living and live life in little discipline. Before using plastics, if once we think of its side effects it will get eradicated. Water, which flows away after rains, if used properly and if its harvest in appropriate manner it can be saved. The conservation resources if used rightly can be conserved for future generation. If each civilized person decides to plant a tree, the ecological balance can be maintained and wild life can also be preserved naturally.

We must use lower amounts of fertilizers, pesticides, and water for our new generation agriculture. The development of crops which are able to thrive in less water is also of utmost importance. The information sharing on the probability of

Before using plastics, if once we think of its side effects it will get eradicated. Water, which flows away after rains, if used properly and if its harvest in appropriate manner it can be saved. The conservation resources if used rightly can be conserved for future generation.

rainfall, on soil moisture, on water requirements is to be advanced. Precision agriculture can produce much more crop per drop than traditional methods can, and industries and cities can use much

less water too. This is essential and most important for agriculture and I see true development in agriculture only.

If I say what is been done in Copenhagen is wrong or shameless, then it would be mean on my part, but over all the agreement in Copenhagen is a huge disappointment and postpones climate protection to a later date. Copenhagen will only be a first step, we must learn the lessons of how to improve the negotiating process of this kind but at the same time we must remember that the learning time is been spent, we now need immediate actions. What is to be done now is very crucial and important for me and for you all as well; after all it's a matter of life or death for the population of the globe.

Though there are some positive elements to the agreement, but people of this planet should continue to put pressure on the leaders of the world to reach a more ambitious agreement at a later stage. I can still bare the greedy humiliating nature of yours towards me for quite



ENEMIES OF EARTH : BIG COUNTRIES ARE BIGGEST POLLUTERS

some time, but you all must prepare the plans which have a long-term vision for 2050 and not the short-term targets for 2020. The present commitments at summit cannot meet the CO2 reduction requirements.

Copenhagen failed to legally bind countries for the agreement; it only "recognises" the need to keep temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius, this is not a perfect agreement, it will not solve the climate threat to us. The main responsibility for the weak agreement lay with the countries that endangered my future most, China and US. I thought that at least at this point they will understand the responsibility towards adapting the reduction targets to global needs. It is shame full on their part as they refused to sign a treaty with international obligations, if they were not to sign it then why did they raised false hope? To simply increase 40000 tones of Co2 in two weeks, to waste 130 Crore Euros for great entertainment or to demonstrate the highly un-

119 world leaders attended the meeting, the largest gathering of heads of state and government in the history of UN. They all walked away from Copenhagen with a deal and it seemed that city of Copenhagen shot crime scenes for two weeks with the guilty men and women now fleeing to the airport. We must be honest about what we have got.

satisfactory and inefficient method of UN conferences.

If instant results of the conference are to be believed then this conference was

slap on the face of most vulnerable and the most badly affected countries from Global Warming. There has been a huge lack of trust during these negotiations. The present deal would not help address global warming and was unfairly worked out behind closed doors. The deal actually should have meant to prevent more heat waves, floods, wildfires, mudslides and rising ocean levels.

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Climate change is the permanent leadership challenge of our time; I therefore urge world leaders to remain engaged.

(Writer Diwakar S. Shetty is CEO of KRG India Research Centre for Rainwater Harvesting and Environment, India. Email: diwakar_shetty@hotmail.com)



VIOLENT PROTEST
IN HYDERABAD

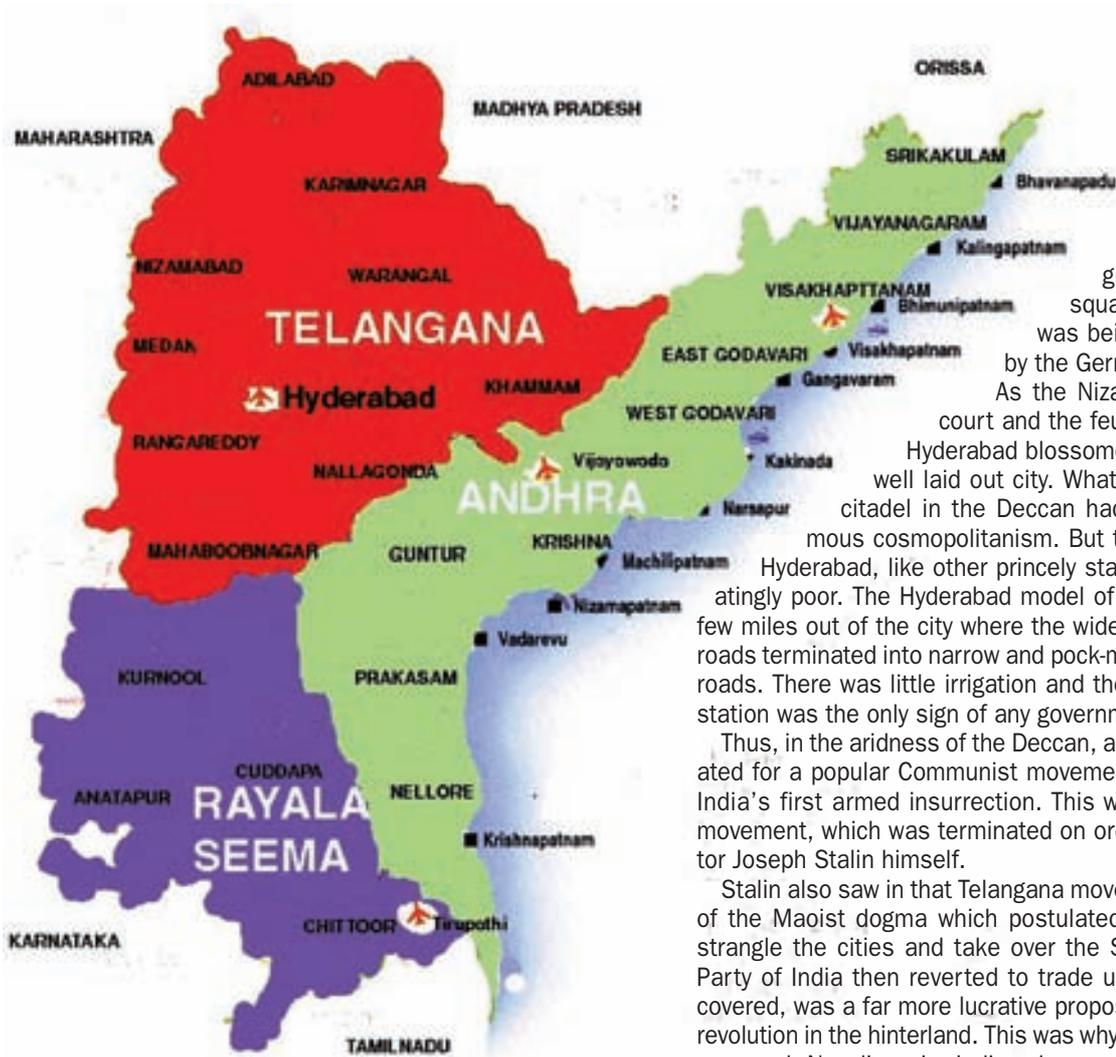
Divide wide open

Following Centre's hasty turn on Telengana, Andhra Pradesh is boiling again

In August 1947, the areas currently within the state of Andhra Pradesh were divided among the princely state of Hyderabad, the Madras Presidency and the Mysore state. Hyderabad State acceded to the Indian union at the completion of Operation Polo in September 1948. Potti Sriramulu worked towards unifying all the Telugu-speaking people, who were residing in the united

Madras presidency, into one state. Soon after his death due to an indefinite hunger strike in December 1952, the then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru announced the state of Andhra would be formed which occurred on 1 October 1953 with Kurnool as capital. However, the princely state of Hyderabad which had been placed under the temporary governorship of the defeated Nizam from 1948

was reorganized as a separate state known as "Hyderabad State" in 1953. Burgula Ramakrishna Rao as Chief Minister. As per the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission in 1956, Andhra Pradesh became among the first states formed on a linguistic basis on 1 November 1956 by uniting the Telugu speaking parts of Hyderabad State, Mysore state and the Andhra State.



NEW CONTOURS : THE PROPOSED TELANGANA STATE

The second Telangana movement for the creation of a separate state seems to be in its final act now, with K Chandrasekhara Rao ending his 'hunger strike'. This will hopefully see the culmination of the Telangana statehood movement, which actually began way back in 1956 when the composite Andhra Pradesh was created by dismembering the old Hyderabad state, and joining its Telangana region with the Telugu-speaking areas of the erstwhile Madras Presidency.

At that time, the people of Telangana expressed apprehensions about being forced into a shotgun marriage with the Andhra region. The Andhra region was much more developed and wealthier than Telangana, with the British having invested a good deal in education and infrastructure, while the Nizam of Hyderabad seemed more preoccupied with collecting baubles like the Jacob diamond and accumulating a huge personal fortune.

He was reckoned to be the richest man in the world. In fact, this took him

The Andhra region was much more developed and wealthier than Telangana, with the British having invested a good deal in education and infrastructure, while the Nizam of Hyderabad seemed more preoccupied with collecting baubles like the Jacob diamond and accumulating a huge personal fortune

to the cover of Time magazine well before Mahatma Gandhi's experiments with truth placed him there.

So wealthy was the Nizam that he gifted an entire Spitfire squadron to Britain when it was being pushed to the wall by the German Luftwaffe.

As the Nizam thrived, so did his court and the feudal bureaucratic elite.

Hyderabad blossomed into a beautiful and well laid out city. What began as the Muslim citadel in the Deccan had now acquired its famous cosmopolitanism. But the common people of Hyderabad, like other princely states, remained excruciatingly poor. The Hyderabad model of development ended a few miles out of the city where the wide and smooth concrete roads terminated into narrow and pock-marked bitumen topped roads. There was little irrigation and the presence of a police station was the only sign of any government!

Thus, in the aridness of the Deccan, a fertile ground was created for a popular Communist movement which morphed into India's first armed insurrection. This was the first Telangana movement, which was terminated on orders from Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin himself.

Stalin also saw in that Telangana movement the glimmerings of the Maoist dogma which postulated that the villages will strangle the cities and take over the State. The Communist Party of India then reverted to trade unionism, which, it discovered, was a far more lucrative proposition than the grind of revolution in the hinterland. This was why Charu Mazumdar, who spawned Naxalism in India, denounced the CPI and the Communist Party of India-Marxist and took to waging the 'People's War'.

The apprehensions of the people of Telangana and the Hyderabad elite in 1956 were not entirely unfounded. At that time, Jawaharlal Nehru assuaged their concerns with safeguards like reservations in educational institutions and government for mulkis, as the locally-born were known. But most of these assurances remained on paper and the people of Andhra gained ascendancy over Hyderabad's and Telangana's social and economic life.

By the mid-1960s, the situation began heating up again. I remember long afternoons in the canteens of the Nizam College and later in the Arts College of Osmania University involved in heated and passionate discussions on the desirability of a separate state.

Many of our more ideologically committed contemporaries took to the gun and joined the now resurgent Naxalite movement in the forests of Telangana, inspired by Communist ideologues like Vempatapu Sathyanarayana and Adhibitla Kailasam. When they were killed by Jalagam Vengala Rao's reign of terror, Kondapalli Sitaramiah took over and greatly expanded the Peoples War group. The original Telangana movement was revived in this manner.



IN FAST LANE...TRS CHIEF FAST UNTO DEATH DROVE CENTRE INTO ACTION

In 1969, the bleak prospects in the real world agitated the students of the Osmania University enough to launch a movement for a separate state. This movement was seized by Congress dissidents like Dr M Channa Reddy, a charismatic leader whose commitment to a separate Telangana was only exceeded by his concern for an office of profit.

Under his leadership, over 300 students lost their lives, but the hacks of the Congress party were satisfied with the removal of Kasu Brahmananda Reddy and the promise of office. But instead of Channa Reddy, Indira Gandhi found PV Narasimha Rao more convenient.

Congress Era

The Indian National Congress party won all the state elections from the emergence of the state in 1953 till 1983. Projects like Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem Dams were constructed during this time. There were 100 different chief ministers from the formation of the state in 1956 till 1983.

First separate Telangana movement

The Northwest region of the state is called Telangana and includes the capital city of Hyderabad. The influx of the people from the coastal region into the city of Hyderabad and remaining regions of Telangana has created many supposed social

tensions. Due to popular political manipulation of public opinion, discontent spread among the people of Telangana. Officials and the unemployed youth who felt that they were exploited by the people of the Andhra region. This resulted in a student of Khammam going on a hunger-strike in January 1969 demanding the implementation of the safeguards for Telangana provided in the Gentlemen's Agreement. This agitation spread to Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana. In the beginning, the movement demanded the implementation of the safeguards agreed upon earlier, but later it wanted the separation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh. The agitation took a new turn



PUBLIC OPINION : BLACK DAY FOR TELANGANA

when the Congress legislators from Telangana supported the movement. Dr.Chenna Reddy entered the fray and formed the Telangana Praja Samiti to lead the movement. But in November 1969 there was a major split in the TPS which eventually led to the downfall of the movement. In September 1971,Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, the then Chief Minister, resigned his position to make room for a leader from Telangana to become the Chief Minister. On 30 September, 1971, P.V.Narasimha Rao became the Chief Minister. The Telangana Praja Samiti was dissolved and its members rejoined the Congress.

Emergence of Telugu Desam Party

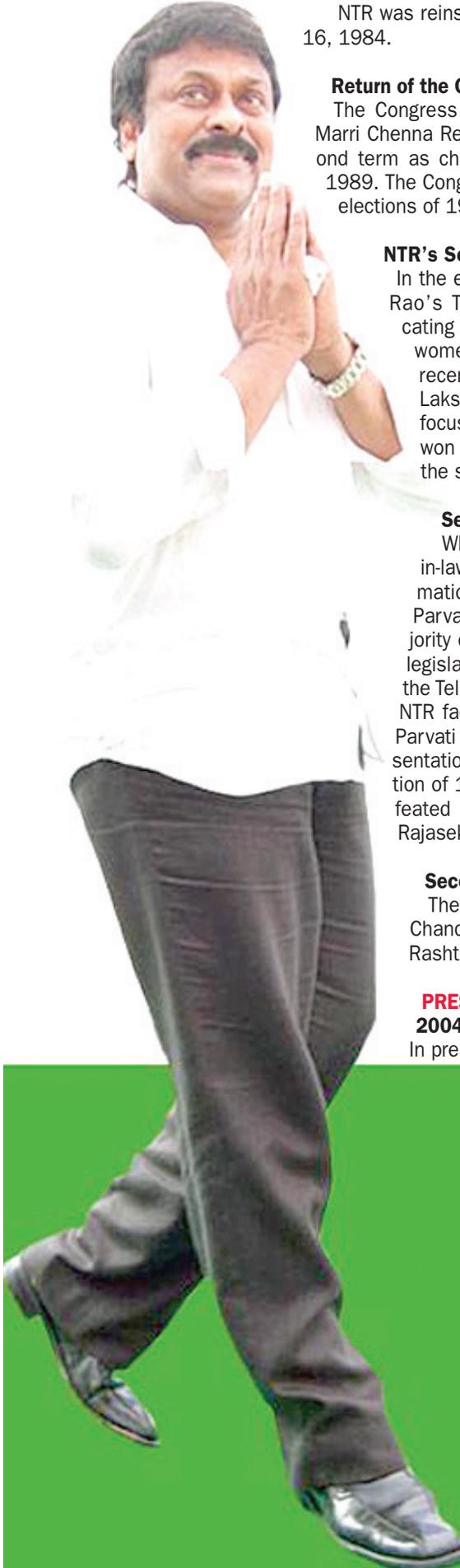
In 1983, N. T. Rama Rao, a popular tel-

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ugu actor established his Telugu Desam Party (meaning, Land of Telugus) with the support of people's dissent arising out of frequent changes in chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, on a platform of "Telugu Pride". Within nine months of its founding, Telugu Desam was voted to power and NTR became the first Non-Congress chief minister of Andhra Pradesh.

First breakup of the TDP

In August 1984, when NTR was in the United States undergoing heart surgery, the state finance minister Nadendla Bhaskara Rao broke the party and formed the state government with the help of the opposition Congress(I). However his government lasted only 31 days as he did not command a majority in the Assembly.



NTR was reinstated to power on September 16, 1984.

Return of the Congress

The Congress returned to power when Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy was sworn in for his second term as chief minister on December 3, 1989. The Congress lasted in power until the elections of 1994.

NTR's Second Term

In the elections of 1994, N. T. Rama Rao's Telugu Desam Party ran advocating prohibition in response to a women's movement. He had then recently married his second wife Lakshmi Parvati. NTR's campaign focussed on the rural areas which won him a significant majority in the state elections of 1995.

Second Breakup of the Telugu Desam

When NTR became the Chief minister in 1995, he appointed one of his son-in-laws Nara Chandrababu Naidu as the Revenue Minister. Soon after the formation of the government in response to the growing influence of Lakshmi Parvati on the political decisions of NTR, Chandrababu Naidu convinced a majority of the TDP MLA's to elect him as the chief minister. Since most of the legislators had gone over to his side, the Anti Defection Law did not apply and the Telugu Desam Party label passed on to the Chandrababu Naidu faction. The NTR faction became TDP(NTR). NTR died on January 18, 1996 and Lakshmi Parvati succeeded him as the head of TDP(NTR) which no longer had any representation in the state legislature. Chandrababu Naidu's TDP won the next election of 1999 and was the Chief Minister for 9 years until 2004 when it was defeated by the Indian National Congress whose state leader Late Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy became the current chief minister.

Second Telangana movement

The second Telangana movement for a separate state was started by K. Chandrashekar Rao who broke from the TDP in 2001 to form the Telangana Rashtra Samithi(TRS).

PRESENT SITUATION

2004 Assembly Elections

In presence of Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy, Indian National Congress party won the

The second Telangana movement for a separate state was started by K. Chandrashekar Rao who broke from the TDP in 2001 to form the Telangana Rashtra Samithi(TRS). Led by, YS Rajshekhar Reddy, Indian National Congress party won the 2004 elections as part of a coalition of with TRS.

చిరంజీవి

SUPERSTAR CHIRAJEEVI HAS JOINED THE BANDWAGON WITH HE AND HIS MLAS QUITTING THEIR SEATS



FIST OF FURY : A PRO-TELANGANA POSTER

2004 elections as part of a coalition of with TRS. During the run-up to 2004 elections, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy was able to bring a common platform and mutual agreement within the Andhra Pradesh Congress Party. His campaign took form of a three-month-long "padhayatra" or foot-walk. The elections resulted in the defeat of the then-ruling Telugu Desam Party under the leadership of N.Chandrababu Naidu. The Congress also won the municipal elections in 2005 and district local body elections in 2006 and also Panchayat Elections in 2006.

2009 Assembly Elections

In the Andhra Pradesh general election, 2009 the Indian National Congress under the leadership of YSR could get a simple majority by winning 156 of 294 assembly seats. TDP gained a few more assembly seats than the previous elec-

tion. Praja Rajyam Party founded by Chiranjeevi won 16% of the votes. The TRS and the Left parties which in combination won less than 7% of the votes. Lok Satta Party won its first Assembly seat and captured more than 1% vote share.

But by now YS Rajasekhara Reddy was well and truly in charge and had successfully marginalised all rivals. In the 2009 elections, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, now in alliance with the Andhra-dominated TDP, CPM and CPI-M [Images], was reduced to a mere two seats in the Lok Sabha and ten in the assembly. Then the TRS split once more.

But the untimely death of YSR and the elevation of K Rosaiah to the post of CM, gave disgruntled Congressmen an opportunity to repeat history.

So KCR was persuaded to go on a fast-unto-death and the Congress's national

leadership was arm-twisted into bowing to the long dormant and once again aroused sentiments of its Telangana leaders.

Soon, KCR will realise that he will not be the next chief minister of Telangana, and a dyed in the wool Congressman will take that position. And there will still be room for another Congress CM in the truncated Andhra state.

But that still leaves us with the now resurgent first Telangana movement, only the Communists are now called Naxalites.

Crisis and solution

The Congress party in its 2004 common minimum program included telangana issue. it promised it would make efforts for the formation of separate telangana. KCR whose party was defeated in the elections in telangana took fast unto death to survive in telangana. All the political parties in the elections held in the year 2009 supported formation of separate telangana.

On 30th november the police used brutal force on the OU students who were demonstrating peacefully.

This act of the police without the knowledge of home minister fuelled not only students community but also all sections of telangana like lawyers, doctors, police people also.

One constable committed suicide and one SI syam sunder resigned from the police force.

This government did not obey the orders of human rights commission. Justice Subhashan Reddy, chairman of the state Human Rights Commission, also took strong objection to the police lathi-charge in the campus.

On receiving complaints from the students' Joint Action Committee, he visited the scene of the incident and conducted an inquiry.

The only option left is formation of separate telangana .Now the movement is not led by opportunist politicians like KCR but by all sections of telangana people. Now it is in the hands of students of telangana.

Instead of making Hyderabad a breeding ground for terrorists and extremists, it is better for the Congress party to introduce a resolution in assembly for the formation of separate telangana or else it should declare its stand open to avoid law and order breakdown. Imposition of President rule in Andhra Pradesh with a strong administrator in command is the only solution for the Telegana crisis..

— Prashant Tewari



Why Raj Thackeray should be taken seriously?

All that looks good is not necessarily good and what is generally perceived to be bad can be good for the society. Raj Thackeray style of politics is largely criticized by civil society and it should if it is breaking society. But what people have to realize that the man is getting support and has created solid base in Maharashtra despite the presence of

all major national and regional political parties. The question is why and how he is progressing if his acts are deplorable? It is a fashion in our country to target public figure without probing the sin committed by them, score of people in different states piled up cases against Raj Thackeray, several courts issue notices and warrants against him but for what? The answer is simple that the authorities

are looking for cheap publicity by framing Raj Thackeray. Nobody is seriously trying to put their own house in order to help native people of their own territory; instead they opt for a simple solution of blaming Raj Thackeray for all the problems faced by people in their respective states. He is framed to be a villain for all the misdeeds committed collectively by ruling elites in the so called backwards states.



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so called back-
wards states.

The basic root of the problem is the mass population migration that started from North Indian states post 1980. The lack of visionary state leadership had stumped the hapless population forcing them to shift base for employment and other reasons. The critical analysis must pin down leadership of Laloo Yadav, Ramvilas Paswan, Mulayam Singh, Mayawati, Madhu Koda etc as major culprits that forced and uprooted the native population out of their respective states. The national parties must share the blame of diluting the development of the region, as both Congress and BJP were ruling the states and Centre in the past few decades.

The question is why anybody should leave native place unless the new place offers better life, the collective leadership failure and administrative collapse has resulted in uprooting several million people from their native place hence forcing them to lead miserable life for few basic things of life. In a quest of vote bank politics, selfish politician and greedy administrators surrendered the basic development issue resulting in the present chaos. Mumbai was India's finest city but the great migration has turned the

The recent success of Raj Thackeray has shown another important fact to digest; surely the local Marathi population in Maharashtra has started accepting his leadership. Post Bal Thackeray era is gradually going to Raj Thackeray way and Sharad Pawar is a fading star of Maharashtra politics hence Raj Thackeray have strategically positioned himself in a position to occupy apex leadership position in near future.

historic
city in
garbage
capital
with dirt
and filth
visible
everywhere.

The city is facing acute water problem, drainage system have collapsed, law and order is fragile, road are broken, public transport is shattered. Raj Thackeray is right in protesting against the ongoing slaughter of Mumbai. He has never targeted innocent hapless people instead he has attacked the so called syndicates trying to superimpose their culture and lifestyle in new territory. He has targeted people who have lived and made name from Mumbai but refuses to give credit to local influence in their success. He has always appealed for collective brotherhood but not at a cost of losing the local culture and identity. There are different communities living in Maharashtra who have made success by living together with native Marathi population without any trouble but the recent deliberate provocation led by vested interest groups have rightly provoked Raj Thackeray to take up the issue rather more seriously than desired by civil society. Raj Thackeray is definitely not fighting against any community in specific but he has raised a valid question that needs an answer from local leadership of some so called backward states.

It is high time that states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh develop self sustaining policy to accommodate all aspiration of local population in

their respective territory. Take a classical example of UP state that is having a sinking economy, wherein the state per capita income is nearly half of the national average and about one third of Haryana and Punjab. The state ranks among the bottom of states in terms of social indicators like infant mortality rate, life expectancy, literacy and poverty concentration. Indeed, UP's bane is its dismal economic performance. The price paid is heavy and is reflected in the yawning gap between its credit deposit ration that has touched an all time low of 42.4per cent in 2009. The national average for the same is 75 per cent. The silver lining out of the entire drama is that Raj Thackeray phenomenon must shake up the governance of all so called backward states, forcing local leadership to focus on development and growth.

The recent success of Raj Thackeray has shown another important fact to digest; surely the local Marathi population in Maharashtra has started accepting his leadership. Post Bal Thackeray era is gradually going to Raj Thackeray way and Sharad Pawar is a fading star of Maharashtra politics hence Raj Thackeray have strategically positioned himself in a position to occupy apex leadership position in near future. The fact that Udhav Thackeray, Chagan Bhujwal, Narayan Rane, Ajit Pawar cannot simply match the leadership qualities and charisma of Raj Thackeray in Maharashtra politics. We must accept that he is having tremendous leadership qualities in spite of autocratic style of functioning. Maharashtra have forty eight parliamentary seats that counts for nearly ten percent of Indian parliament strength, now the crucial question is that can we ignore Raj Thackeray? The intelligentsia must walk very carefully by randomly criticizing Raj Thackeray though



GROWING FORCE: A RALLY OF MNS

constructive criticism is healthy for democracy. The national press and intellectuals sitting in electronic news channels studios have been randomly spitting venom on Raj Thackeray without realizing that the same might come to haunt them in future. Bal Thackeray had pursued the similar politics in Maharashtra for over three decades with success and intellectuals could just watch him to play the entire political inning with success. We have to accept that both Bal Thackeray and Raj Thackeray are part of the democratic set up in India and we must carefully listen to them, Let people and electorate decide the future of leaders instead of so called elite secular forces deciding who and how the political leadership should behave..

Raj Thackeray is young and charismatic with wonderful oratory skills. He has shown that he possess tremendous organizational abilities to match the might of

structured parties like Congress, BJP, NCP and Shiv Sena. He has single handedly dented the urban base of Shiv Sena and gradually looking upbeat in the rural segment in Maharashtra. Raj is having decent exposure in business by virtue of his upbringing in Mumbai hence he can easily switch to development mode after consolidating traditional vote bank in his favour. In fact Raj Thackeray is seen by experts and political pundits as next big thing in coming years in Indian politics. But he needs an image overhaul to reach out to entire Maharashtra and then beyond state to stamp his leadership at national level, India have extremely few decisive leaders with mass appeal that Raj Thackeray commands without having a structured political party. We have extremely narrow and limited leadership options in Rahul Gandhi and Narendra Modi in Indian politics today having macro vi-

sion and national mass appeal irrespective of party affiliation. It is high time to take Raj Thackeray with extreme seriousness both in state and national politics because he is shaping up too well for other comfort. The Raj Thackeray phenomenon and his brand of politics have many shades and twists hence people must gear up to the fact that he will be changing the tide very soon with a focus on development and growth, the present wave is a process to highlight the basic problem in realistic way and to consolidate base in his home turf. Raj Thackeray is a decent family man with a clean public image; he is educated and well exposed in national and international matters. Let's be practical and pragmatic in reading real Raj of Maharashtra.

(With inputs from Veelaas Kenjale, Maharashtra Bureau Chief of Opinion Express)



Another feather in his cap

Mukesh Ambani ranked 5th best CEO in the world

Mukesh Ambani, who heads India's most valuable company Reliance Industries, has been ranked among top five best performing CEOs in the world by the prestigious Harvard Business Review.

Ambani, the only Indian to feature among top 50 CEOs, is in the same league as Steve Jobs of Apple, Yun Jong-Yong of Samsung Electronics, Russian energy firm Gazprom's Alexey Miller and John Chambers of Cisco Systems

He is also ranked number two among the top 10 emerging market CEOs with Miller at the top.



MANY HATS: AT CII CONCLAVE (TOP) AND AT A RELIANCE FRESH STORE (ABOVE)

HALL OF FAME



FAMILY MAN: MUKESH AMBIANI WITH HIS DAUGHTER AT A MUMBAI INDIAN CRICKET MATCH

K V Kamath of ICICI Bank is the other Indian in the list of Top 10 Emerging Market CEOs. He is ranked at number 9.

The Harvard Business Review said it ranked CEOs of large public traded companies in a study conducted over 2000 CEOs worldwide. The entire group represented 48 nationalities and companies based in 33 countries.

It put Ambani in the list of "up-through-the-ranks leaders" along with the Samsung boss.

"Among the up-through-the-ranks leaders on our list are Yun Jong-Yong, who joined Samsung straight out of college and worked there 30 years before becoming CEO, and Mukesh Ambani, who joined RIL in 1981, when it was still a textile company run by his father. .

"These CEOs may not all be household names, but here's an objective look at who delivered the top results over the long term," HBR said, ranking Steve Jobs as the top CEO in the world.

Jobs, it said, delivered a whopping 3,188 per cent industry-adjusted return (34 per cent compounded annually) after he rejoined Apple as CEO in 1997, when the company was in dire strait.

From that time until the end of September 2009, Apple's market value increased by \$150 billion.

He was followed by Yun Jong-Yong, who

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ran South Korea's Samsung Electronics from 1996 to 2008. "Yun is an example of a leader who has stayed out of the lime-light. During his tenure he capably transformed Samsung from a maker of memory chips and me-too products into an innovator selling digital products such as leading-edge cell phones."

Miller was number 3 followed by Chambers.

HBR said none of the top three CEOs had a MBA. Ambani and Chambers were the only two on the top five to hold degrees in business administration.

"CEOs who were promoted from inside the company tended to have stronger per-

formance than those brought in from the outside," said HBR. .

Several CEOs that were "most respected" according to other reviews were nowhere in HBR's top 50. These include Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase, Satoru Iwata of Nintendo, Sam Palmisano of IBM and Rex Tillerson of Exxon Mobil.

Many other celebrity CEOs also failed to make the cut.

They include Carlos Ghosn of Renault-Nissan, Sergio Marchionne of Fiat, John March of Morgan Stanley, Jeffrey Immelt of General Electric, Daniel Vasella of Novartis and Robert Iger of Walt Disney.

"Some of these well-known CEOs have not necessarily done poorly; they are just not among the top performers in the world according to the total shareholder return they have delivered so far," HBR said.

The likes of Jack Welch, Warren Buffett, Larry Ellison and Bill Gates do not find mention in the list as HBR considered CEOs who assumed the job no earlier than January 1995 and no later than December 2007.

"On an average the top 50 CEOs increased the wealth of their shareholders by \$48.2 billion," it said. They delivered a total shareholder return of 997 per cent during their time in office. That translates into a spectacular annual return of 32 per cent.



SCIENCE **VS** BUSINESS

Does today's dominant economic and financial thinking violate the laws of physics? Mainstream finance and economics have long been inconsistent with the underlying laws of thermodynamics, which are fast catching up as a result of globalisation! At present, economics is the study of how people transform nature to meet their needs and it treats the exploitation of finite natural resources including energy, water, air, arable land and oceans as externalities, which they are not! For example, we

The Gaping Chasm between Economics and Physics - Rising Systemic Risk and Multiple Black Swans

cannot pollute and damage natural ecosystems and their local communities ad infinitum without severe repercussions to their underlying sustainability. It is widely recognised both within the distinguished ATCA community and beyond that exchange rates instability, equity and commodity market speculation – particularly fuel, food and finance – and re-

sultant volatilities as well as external debt are the main cause of asymmetric threats and disruption at the international level manifest as known unknowns, ie, low probability high impact risks and unknown unknowns or black swans.

There is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and environmental protection, including conservation of

biodiversity, clean air and water, and atmospheric stability. This conflict is due to the laws of thermodynamics. An economic translation of the first law of thermodynamics is that we cannot make something from nothing. All economic production must come from resources provided by nature. Also, any waste generated by the economy cannot simply disappear. At given levels of technology, therefore, economic growth entails increasing resource use and waste in the form of pollution. According to the second law of thermodynamics, although energy and materials remain constant in quantity, they degrade in quality or structure. This is the meaning of increasing entropy. In the context of the economy, whatever resources we transform into something useful must decay or otherwise fall apart to return as waste to the environment. The current model of the disposable economy operates as a system for transforming low-entropy raw materials and energy into high-entropy toxic

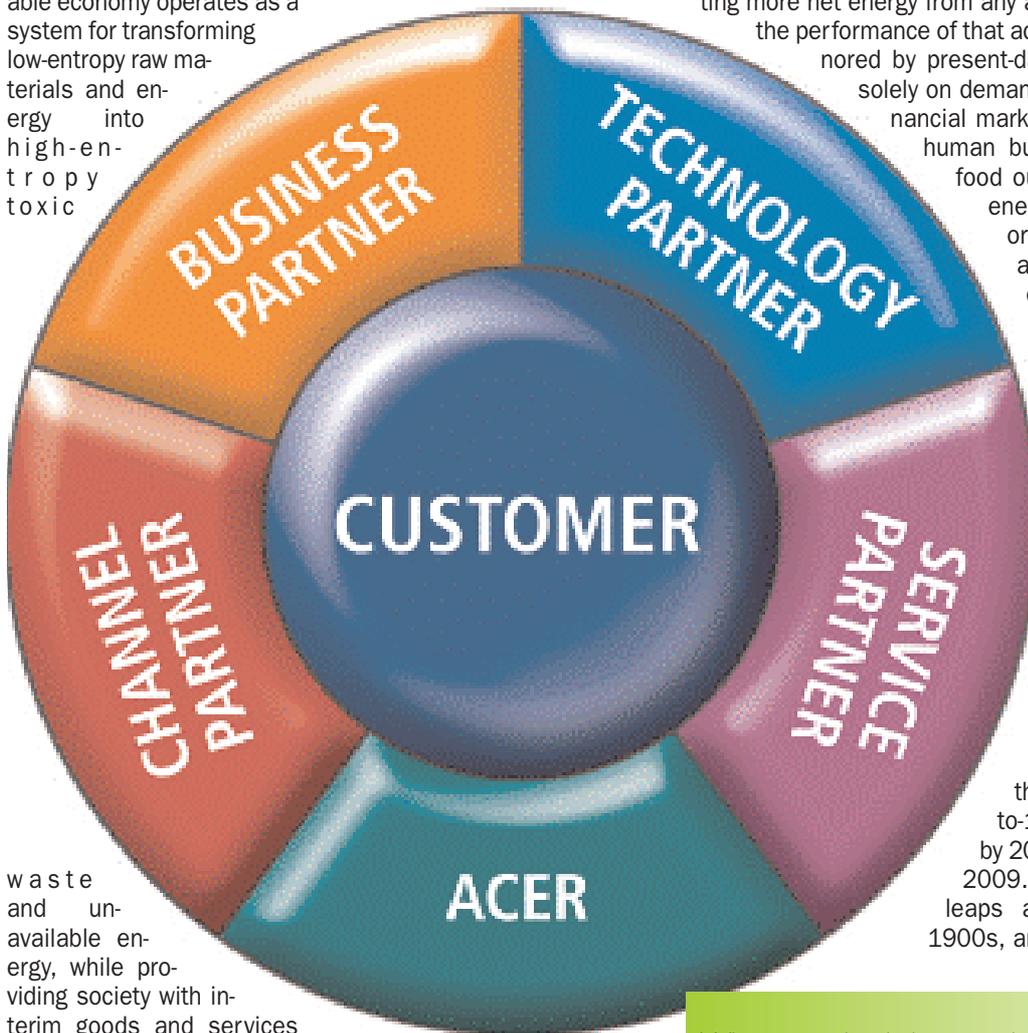
waste and unavailable energy, while providing society with interim goods and services and the temporary satisfaction that most deliver. Any such transformations in the economy mean that there will be less low-entropy materials and energy available for natural ecosystems. Mounting evidence of this conflict demonstrates the limits to our global growth!

Where do massive turbulences actually come from and what is the underlying cause of periodic financial and economic crises with accelerating levels of severity at national and transnational levels? Mainstream economics is fundamentally flawed in its measurement of: 1. The value of human capital; 2. The real long term cost of renewal of natural ecosystems and resources; and 3. The overall health of the economy as assessed by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The near-universal quest for constant economic growth – translated as rising GDP

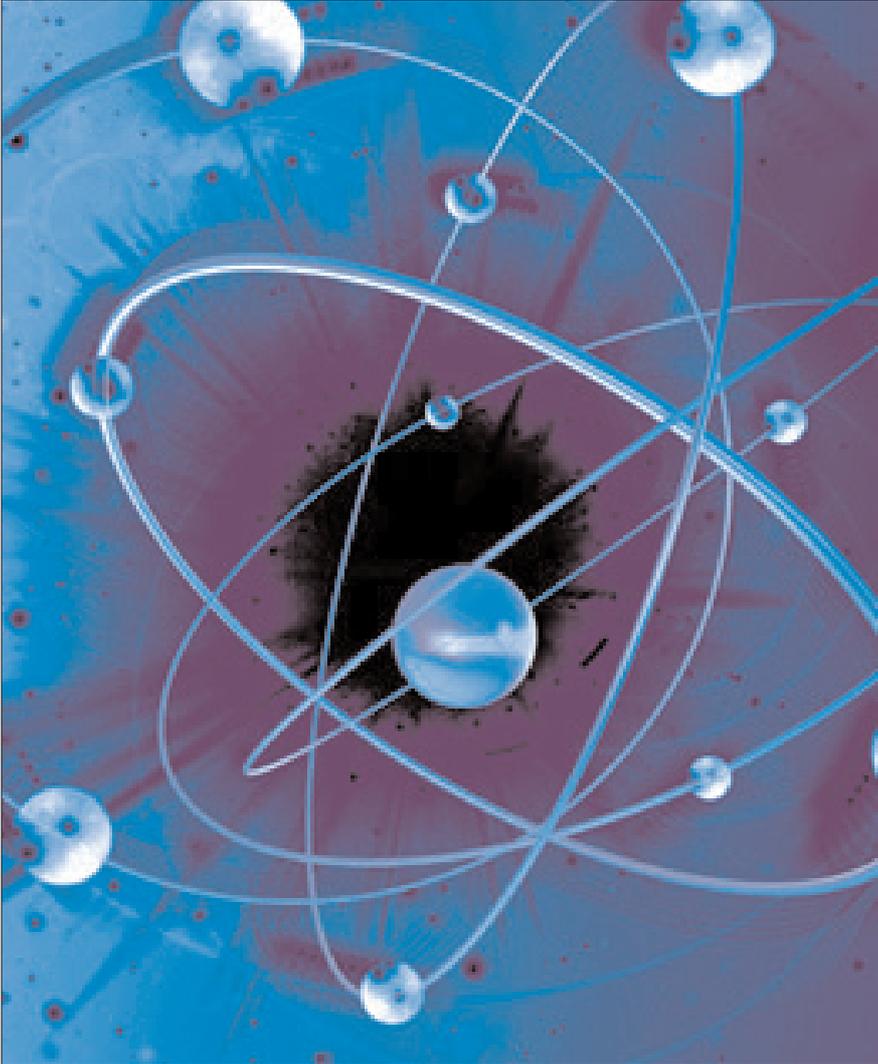
– ignores the world’s diminishing supply of natural resources at humanity’s peril, failing to take account of the principle of net Energy Return On Investment (EROI). The Great Reset – the protracted 21st century financial and economic crisis and global downturn which ATCA originally labelled as The Great Unwind in 2007 – has led to much soul-searching amongst economists and policy makers, the vast majority of whom never saw it coming because they never understood that the credit pyramid is an inversion of the energy-dependence pyramid.

When we look beyond the narrow lens of the current human perspective, survival of all living creatures – including ourselves – is limited by the concept of Energy Return on Investment (EROI). What does EROI really mean? Any living thing or living societies can survive only so long as they are capable of getting more net energy from any activity than they expend during the performance of that activity. This simple concept is ignored by present-day economics when focussing solely on demand and supply curves or daily financial market gyrations. For example, if a human burns energy eating food, that food ought to give that person more energy back than s/he expended, or the person will not survive. It is a golden rule that lies at the core of studying all flora and fauna, whether they are micro-organisms, thousand year old trees or mighty elephants. Human society should be looked at no differently: even technologically complex societies are still governed by the EROI and the laws of thermodynamics!

The petroleum sector’s EROI in USA was about 100-to-1 in the 1930s, meaning one had to burn approximately 1 barrel of oil’s worth of energy to get 100 barrels out of the ground. By the 1990s, that number slid to less than 36-to-1, and further down to 19-to-1 by 2006. It has fallen even further in 2009. Oil extraction has evolved by leaps and bounds since the early 1900s, and yet companies must expend



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much more energy to get less and less oil than they did a hundred years ago. If one were to go from using a 19-to-1 energy return on fuel down to a 3-to-1 EROI, economic disruption is guaranteed as nothing is left for other economic activity at all!

Is it because we don't have the technology that we find ourselves cornered? No. Technology is in a global race with rocketing energy consumption and accelerating depletion of energy, and that's a very complex set of challenges to confront simultaneously. The resource constraints foreseen by the Club of Rome in 1972 are more evident today than at any time since the publication of the think tank's famous book, "The Limits to Growth" which stated: "If the present growth trends in world population, industrialisation, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next one hundred years. The most probable result will be a rather sudden and uncontrollable decline in both population and industrial capacity."

Although more than 60 years have elapsed since The Great Depression of the 1930s and the subsequent horrors of the second world war, our understanding of severe economic downturns has improved very little in the 20th and 21st centuries. Economists, financiers, and policy makers are too often at a loss when asked to provide a diagnosis and propose a remedy for the reoccurrence of complex systemic risk. The main problem with mainstream economics is that it treats energy as the same as any other commodity input in the production function, thinking of it purely in money terms, and treating it the same as they would other raw materials and sub-components, but without energy, one can't have any of the other inputs or outputs! We have to begin regarding Calories, Joules and Watts as the key currencies rather than the Dollar, Euro and Yen!

Is lowering the carbon footprint as Copenhagen would have us believe, the only answer, or is conservation of energy efficiency another important thread in the global solution that we all seek? Neither would be sufficient at our pres-

ent rate of accelerating energy consumption worldwide! The International Energy Agency's data shows that global energy use is doubling every 37 years or so, while energy productivity takes about 56 years to double! Energy and resource conservation is somewhat pointless in the mainstream economic system as it is now legislated and operates. Whilst such efforts are noteworthy as they buy the world a bit more time – as Copenhagen no doubt will claim – but the destination is inevitably unaltered! A barrel of oil not burned by an American or European will be burned by someone else in another emerging country as that nation seeks to topple its rival in the high GDP growth league!

What is needed is a unified working model consistent with the nature of Energy Return on Investment (EROI) and capable of accounting for the process of all types of capital accumulation, treatment of externalities as internalities, mapping global energy flows and their circulation. In 1926, Frederick Soddy, a chemist who was awarded the Nobel Prize just a few weeks before, published "Wealth, Virtual Wealth and Debt," one of the first books to argue that energy should lie at the heart of economics and not supply-and-demand curves. Soddy was critical of traditional monetary policy for seemingly ignoring the fact that "real wealth" is derived from using energy to transform physical objects, and that these physical objects are inescapably subject to the laws of thermodynamics, or inevitable decline and disintegration.

The main problem is that we as a global society, even in 2009, are almost incapable of detecting and measuring systemic risk in a complex system as we have seen in the global financial and economic crises: The Great Unwind and The Great Reset. Given this inability, what we tend to do, is to focus on a single cause – such as capping carbon emissions at Copenhagen – and extrapolate out of that a wider perspective which has the capacity to lead to an incomplete and distorted view. A new model of economics must aim to contribute to the development of the scientific understanding of the way our economic systems work holistically, with particular reference to inherent monetary disequilibria caused by energy, water, air, arable land and natural resources dependence and how those could practically be dealt with via modern physics.

— DK Matai

(Chairman and

Founder: mi2g.net, ATCA)



‘WHY INDIA CAN’T TRUST CHINA?’

Present threat is far more dangerous than 1962, says former NSA

Former NSA Brajesh Mishra, during whose tenure India-China relations had improved significantly, has said that China's present threat to India is more dangerous than in 1962, when the countries clashed in a war, and that Indian politicians were to blame for India's weak defence position.

Mishra, who was the NSA during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government, pointed out at a book-release function in

New Delhi that there has been a change in China's stand regarding Kashmir, which could lead to a bigger threat.

India should remember that "we had two fronts since 1962", he said.

"But, importantly, these two fronts were never simultaneously active. In 1962, it was with China, and in 1965, 1971 and 1999 it was with Pakistan. The change that is taking place today in Chinese thinking is that Jammu and Kashmir is 'an issue'.

"It indicates that it's possible, if not probable, that in next four to five years we may have to defend ourselves from both fronts at the same time."

He said there has been no change in Pakistan's policy as it has been continuing with what it has been doing.

"The Army of Pakistan is the State of Pakistan. They are not only guardian of Pakistan, but consider themselves to be the 'State'. On three questions they have had supreme authority: on



CAUTION NOTE: CHINA IS GETTING HEGEMONISTIC, SAYS BRAJESH MISHRA (ABOVE). MANMOHAN SINGH AND HU JINTAO AT AN INTERNATIONAL MEET

Pakistan's relations with India, their relations with Afghanistan and the nuclear issue. So, Pakistan has not changed, while China has become more hostile," Misha said.

At the seminar, Mishra also released two books – *The Dragon's Fire: Chinese Military Strategy and Its Implications for Asia* by Rajeswari Rajagopalan and *Arming the Indian Arsenal : Challenges and Policy Options* by Deba Mohanty published by the Observer Research Foundation.

Mishra said he did not believe the view that China was an enigma.

"It is very clear to me China has one goal, which it is pursuing since 1979 when Deng Xiaoping came out with his policy of modernisation. Thirty years later, we can see the results in economic and military fields. China is very strong compared to India. We are now facing the problem today which is much more dangerous than what we faced in 1962."

"In the last two years, China has become very aggressive in its attitude towards India, whether it is on the Line of Actual Control or through their writings of the think-tanks or other offi-



A DAZZLING CHINESE CITY

cial media," he added.

Mishra said China was turning hegemonic.

"It's not true that China has settled all its boundary problems," he said, adding that China had maritime issues with Japan and South Korea, and wants to prevail on South China Sea over the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"China is just waiting for a few more years before it asserts itself in the area," he added. According to Mishra, China has three rivals in Asia: Japan, Australia and India. While Japan and Australia have nuclear umbrellas for their protection, India has none.

"India is not prepared to face the situation," he declared.

Mishra blamed the country's electoral politics and corruption for the country's weak position. There is a "lack of national security culture amongst politicians," he said.

Weapon procurement takes long time in India, the former NSA said, adding that even if India did place an order for the 126 fighter jets next year as planned, they will be delivered only after 10 years.

However, he said, "It is unlikely that the order will be placed next year and when the aircraft are delivered, they will be outdated."

Mishra alleged that the national security was being compromised because of the electoral politics of politicians.

"Even 20 years after the Bofors scandal, the burden of the controversy is still on the shoulders of politicians. They are afraid to take decisions that might generate controversy. They have fear of allegations of corruption," he said.

Mishra said that unless India took the issue of national security seriously, it would never be able to become a great power. He minced no words to say that India should not trust China, whose only all-weather friend was Pakistan.

"They don't see any other country, including Russia, as its friend," he said.

"Recently, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin went to China. They signed a contract worth around \$5 billion. After a few days, China blamed Russia saying it was a 'fair weather friend'," Mishra said.

He said China wants a G-2 with US and itself alone, however Russia is contesting its claim into the group.

Mishra conceded that China had "full control" over Asia today, and that India should defend itself through its policies and diplomacy, and should continue to rise economically.

Former army chief General V P Malik, who also attended the event, said the

nexus between defence public sector companies, the ordinance boards and the defence ministry has created a "protective mindset", which did not facilitate private sector participation in defence production.

General Malik, who had to face the Kargil War with "whatever we have", said the absence of a "stated defence procurement policy" was a big problem in meeting the requirements of the forces.

He said there was an urgent need to include defence economists to build an integrated defence planning.

The former army chief warned against the territorial ambitions of China, as there is a gap in views between China's defence organisation, the Peoples Liberation Army, and the political leadership.

Brigadier (retired) Gurmeet Kanwal, director of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, said though there was a strategic stability along the India-China border, there was aggressiveness at the tactical level.

Noting that the gap between the capabilities of India and China were growing in favour of "our big neighbour", he opined that it would be better to resolve the border disputes quickly because "China will be capable of dictating terms in 15 years from now".



STAR ON THE
horizon

ANNE-LISE RAMOOLOO



'A bunch of talented people have brought change'

Anne-lise Ramooloo is a proud product of new generation of modern women in Mauritius. She is a professional volleyball player, and doing modeling both in agencies and freelance. It gives her time to learn more about myself before starting higher studies afterwards, either in 'Marketing in Fashion' or to become fashion editor.

Q How do you rate fashion industry of Mauritius viz global fashion scenario?

It is clear that Mauritius doesn't have the means to equate foreign fashion but a bunch of talented and motivated people brought considerable change recently. We have a dedicated fashion magazine in the island about three years back and now there are many of them. High fashion is finding itself a place here too through one or two designers work are getting recognition abroad. Foreign professionals in

Mauritius share their experience with us, several beauty and modeling contests and Fashion festivals are taking place and last but not least, models are getting more professional.

Q Revenue generation in a small island would be a challenge, how does fashion community sustain this challenge?

The fashion community in Mauritius mainly consists of photographers, make-up artists, stylists and models. Passion is often placed first before Profits in island country. Revenue generation is a real challenge here, because even our visible progress is not enough to make all clients pay fairly. It is a fact that fashion in Island country is seen as a joke by some. The result is sadly more amateur than professional outcome in the business. But we are struggling to get the deserved recognition.

Q How does creativity of Mauritius artists reach global platform? Internet does offer a platform but physical appearance is vital to show case creative work, do you have regular exchange programs with friendly countries?

Some Mauritian artists have considerable exposure through our world class hotels, highly developed apparel industry where they interact with foreign professionals and thus do great networking. There is not really any association here that defends our case and it is a shame, If you want to expand your career, then it is better to travel and try your luck at international destinations by your own. But I am sure that international modeling agencies will establish permanent place in Mauritius to promote local talent very soon.

(Inputs from Mauritius bureau, edited by Ritu Shukla)



DOWN MEMORY LANE

Politics with conviction, Chandrashekhar style!

New Delhi, November 1999: I was introduced to Mr Chandrashekhar, former Prime Minister of India by his close associate Mr. A.D Giri, former Attorney General of India at his New Delhi residence. I was looking to have Chandrashekharji view on Indian politics post Mandal era since long. Mr A.D Giri, Mr Kapil Sibal, Mr Ashoka Kumar Thakur were busy sorting out legal battle of another high profile former Prime Minister with me in a Delhi hotel, In between Mr Giri received a call from

Mr Chandrashekhar's house, and he took consent from Chandrashekharji to spare some time for an interview.

Mr Chandrashekhar was socialist in appearance; he was dressed in traditional dhoti and kurta, sitting on carpeted floor. After few exchanges of pleasantries, we started conversation. Here are excerpts of the talks held on the occasion.

Question: You are known as Young Turk, rebel and unconventional politician in the Indian political scene, do you enjoy your typical branding?

Chandrashekhar: I believe in politics of conviction, starting from my early days of student politics to the apex level of national politics, I have never sacrificed my self belief and inner voice that guides my actions. For me, politics is a platform for serving people. It offer a unique opportunity for an individual to guide destiny of oppressed and underprivileged class. Well, I may sound idealistic here, but it is the truth. I am traditionally a rebel, fighting against syndications in politics. All the adjectives attached with my name are primarily because of this reason.

Social engineering in a country like India will continue for years to come, till we achieve certain level of literacy level at the national level. Approach of Mandal and Mandir is adopted by respective parties for their self interest, sacrificing national interest. It has provided an opportunity for regional straps to consolidate their base in various parts in the country.

Question: Indian politics have taken tremendous swing post 1989, VP Singh introduced Mandal, BJP build its base on Mandir issue and Congress went absolute right wing in economic policy. Regional Parties have emerged from all parts of the country and few regional leaders have monopolized their respective state. You are a national leader with strong affiliation to the grassroots politics, suggest where India is heading now?

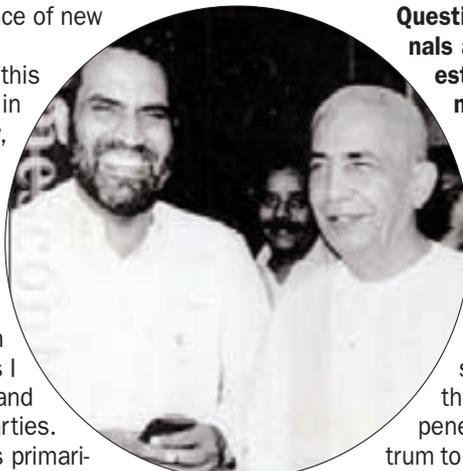
Chandrashekhar: Social engineering in a country like India will continue for years to come, till we achieve certain level of literacy level at the national level. Approach of Mandal and Mandir is adopted by respective parties for their self interest, sacrificing national interest. It has provided an opportunity for regional straps to consolidate their base in various parts in the country. But it has broken the syndication of certain feudal forces operating in the country since independence. It provided an opportunity for regional leaders to fulfill their ambition of being the ruling class. The field



CHANDRA SHEKHAR WITH PRESIDENT R VENKAT RAMAN AND DEVI LAL AT VP SINGH'S SWEARING IN AS PM IN 1989; WITH CHARAN SINGH (BELOW)

became open for people, hence emergence of new ruling class.

Now we cannot predict the outcome of this situation, the time will tell the final score in the longer run. People like Lallo Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Kanshi Ram & Mayawati, Chandrababu Naidu, Karunanidhi, Jayalalitha, Bal Thakrey have a strong political base in their respective territory, but combining it at the national level for the good of the country remains a challenge. In my opinion, both the main stream parties namely Congress I and BJP will continue to recede in future and more depended on the regional political parties. We will witness an era of collation politics primarily formed for addressing self interest than the national interest.



Question: Prime Minister Job in India is the thankless job, the more you deliver, and you are subjected to more criticism. What is your observation?

Chandrashekar: Yes, it is true. Though I must admit here that the same situation is there with any job of prominence. An individual can never satisfy aspirations of all, and in India we are talking of satisfying over billion people at a time. In my opinion, we have to take neutral position in governance, and the approach should be to broad base decisions for the welfare of large portion of population. Both development and social welfare are critical for the decision maker; hence effort should be concentrated in making the peaceful coexistence for all the contradiction.

Question: Entry of incompetent people, criminals and people associated with vested interest has led to deterioration in political climate both at National and state level. The levels of political debate have gone down considerably, so the issues of national interest are never addressed properly. You are a champion parliamentarian, how do you react to the present crisis?

Chandrashekar: To me personally, this is a saddest part of present politics. Majority of the leaders coming at the main stream politics are amateur and guided by the vested interest. Business forces have penetrated in the mainstream political spectrum to facilitate their self interest. Early criminals were used by politicians but now they are getting used by the criminals. The moral courage is missing in the political leadership to whip out the syndication of these forces from the system. I had strongly opposed the trend in the past and to best of my ability, I will continue to oppose the trend. We must encourage value based politics at all the different level of governance, ensure full participation of the masses. India need leadership attached to the grass root level, because large portion of the population is under prevailed. A proper representation system should be well placed for the people for whom a professional trained political worker can speak and address relevant issues.

**(Former Prime Minister
Shri Chandrashekar in an interview
with Prashant Tewari,
Editor-in Chief, Opinion Express Group)**

SMALL CAR TO TAKE BIG LEAP

TATA NANO TO BE EXHIBITED AT THE NEW YORK DESIGN MUSEUM

The Tata Nano will be on view at the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum in New York from Feb 18 through April 25, 2010. A sunshine yellow Nano built by Tata Motors will be displayed in the Great Hall with diagrams and a short film describing its concept, development and production. The Tata Nano designed to be the world's most affordable car was named so to connote high tech, small size and a low price. Unveiled last year in India, the Nano is targeted to families who had not previously been able to afford a car. It is billed as the 'people's car' and the base model starts at \$2200 in India. It can accommodate up to five adults.

Conceived by Ratan Tata, Chairman of the Tata Group it is an all weather personal transport that provides a safer and cleaner alternative to two wheelers pervasive in India. It offers fuel efficiency of 50 mpg, 35hp, four doors, is about 10 ft long, weighs 1300 pounds, has a sheet metal body, rear

two cylinder engine, tubeless tires, a reinforced passenger compartment, crumple zones, seat belts and can do a top speed of 65mph. Tata Motors is currently developing versions of the Nano for the European and American markets.

— Vikas Dubey



TECHNO *decoded* ASTROLOGY



By B M Gaur

Shiv Verma started Vital Acts Inc. with the following Mission and Objective is to provide an easy, simple and user-centric online service that touches their Vital Acts of life!

Vital Acts Inc. is growing to become the leader in service oriented online services catering to the needs of people through Internet and mobile. Its series of website services ensures that an average individual is able to use the internet in the most effective, affordable and easy way! Verma states that What we mean by that is well demonstrated by our website product services, product quality, customer service and one of the key items that is most affordable and beating the competition in regards to pricing that we have to offer or the amount of FREE services we have to offer!

SimplyAstro.com is an online portal for astrological services providing the widest range of astrological and divination services in India and in western countries. SimplyAstro.com provides services to the people who believe in astrology as the science that may guide their path in life. All products and services offered by SimplyAstro.com reflect the philosophy that the purpose of Astrology is to stimulate the personal growth of individuals and create inter-personal harmony. SimplyAstro.com services include online consultations and counseling built around Tarot, Numerology, Western Astrology, Vedic Astrology, Chinese Astrology, Vastu, Feng Shui, Biorhythm, etc. backed by an internationally renowned panel of astrologers from across the world. SimplyAstro.com is a full fledged online astrology service provider and a platform for astrologers to export their services to Indians as well as



App, AS-TROSWAMI

PRO, which promises to deliver personalized predictions and remedies based on one's birth time and place. ASTROSWAMI PRO takes a serious and believable course in its zodiac principles, as it follows Indian Vedic Astrology along with Western Astrology. It gives one the ability to change birth details to not only read one's personalized predictions and remedies but also do the same for family members and friends. It has over 200,000 birth place cities information across the world, adding several more every day. This App has been designed with written rules that also applied well in terms of predictions in the past for various top celebrities. "We took birth details of various celebrities and followed their day to day lives and key events to determine the accuracy of the personalized predictions our software generated. The results were astounding! The computerized calculations reduces the possibilities of human error, which may otherwise affect the predictions made by astrologers," says Shiv Verma, CEO, Simplyastro.com

The App works equally well for iPod Touch. While most online Astrology services provide generic predictions, the ASTROSWAMI PRO iPhone App will bring the key suite of personalized prediction and remedies services existing on the website simplyastro.com to the iPhone. "The launch of AstroSwami iPhone App is a strategic step forward in targeting the iPhone savvy market segment which includes not only Indian, American, British, Australian, Canadian population but communities and cultures worldwide who believe in astrology.

The global PIO community is delighted with innovative ventures undertaken by Indian entrepreneur having faith in traditional Indian science. Indian core strength in traditional sectors like Yoga, Ayurvedic medicine, Astrology can be show cased to the west to consolidate Indian dominance in 21st century.

(The writer is a practicing astrologer based in india)



SHIV VERMA

SimplyAstro.com is an online portal for astrological services providing the widest range of astrological and divination services in India and in western countries

Western people and all other people worldwide who believe in astrology as the science that may guide their path in life. All products and services offered by SimplyAstro.com reflect the philosophy that the purpose of Astrology is stimulating personal growth of individuals and creating inter-personal harmony.

Indian American entrepreneur Shiv Verma has launched first ever iPhone

RDB

rhythm dhol bass

By Tirusha Dave

Over the past year, I've had the privilege to become very close with and work with internationally acclaimed group, RDB (Kuly, Manj, Surj & Nindy Kaur). For Bollywood they've become a household name and 2009 has been quite an epic year for them. RDB made their Bollywood debut with the track Rafta Rafta (Namaste London) and even larger waves with their cross-cultural track, Singh is King, featuring Grammy Award-nominated American rapper, Snoop Dogg. It was these two tracks which helped to launch RDB to unimaginable heights in Bollywood.

2009 started off with a bang as Nindy Kaur was introduced to Bollywood with two tracks, Aloo Chaat and Boliyaan, both from the film 'Aloo Chaat.'

bollywood blockbusters



When asked why Nindy Kaur should be showcased to the world as the fourth member of RDB, Manj stated, "she's talented, has a powerful voice, and brings something different vocally."

She has a unique sound, something that people would enjoy listening to."

And what a wonderful idea it was. Both became instant favorites to fans across the world, especially in India, as these tracks were featured by a few performers on the show 'Boogie Woogie.'

"It was Manj's idea that I should start singing," laughed Nindy, "he always knew I was good at it and was waiting for the perfect opportunity. It feels good to say that Bollywood is where I made my debut as a singer!"

With the success of their music in 'Aloo Chaat,' it was understood that more was to come from this unmatched group. Following 'Aloo Chaat,' their next major hit was 'Om Mangalam,' from the film, 'Kambaqth Ishq.' The track was featured in all the movie promos across the world and landed the #1 position on many Bollywood music charts as well. And if three hit songs weren't enough, RDB have ended the year with one last Bollywood project; they re-composed their worldwide hit, 'Paisa,' featuring Manak-E, for Akshay Kumar's latest film, 'De Dana Dan.' Not only was the movie a super-hit, but the track has become so successful that it's held the #1 for the past five weeks.

Aside from their Bollywood projects, RDB and Nindy Kaur have been traveling the world, performing for thousands of fans in the US, Canada, UK, Dubai, and India, to say the least. They've even took over some of the largest theme parks in the US, over the summer, as RDB & Nindy Kaur were touring, giving away

CDs, and meeting their fans.

When asked about this experience, Manj stated, "It was great performing in front of all the crowds at the theme parks; plus we got to go on the rides too, haha!" Kuly also added, "For me, it was great to finally get closer to our US fans and really connect with them in a live outdoor mela setting. It was great fun!"

2009 has nearly come to an end, and there was no finer way for RDB & Nindy Kaur to end the year. RDB was invited to and

exciting that they've decided to make this a single for their forthcoming album, 'Worldwide.' And if an exuberant performance wasn't enough, they mingled and dined with the 'Who's-Who' of Bollywood from actors Ashwariya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan, Sunil Shetty, Samera Reddy to social elite & entrepreneur Kiran Bawa.

RDB's forthcoming album, 'Worldwide,' will be releasing in 2010. The first single to be released from their album is 'Akhiyan.'

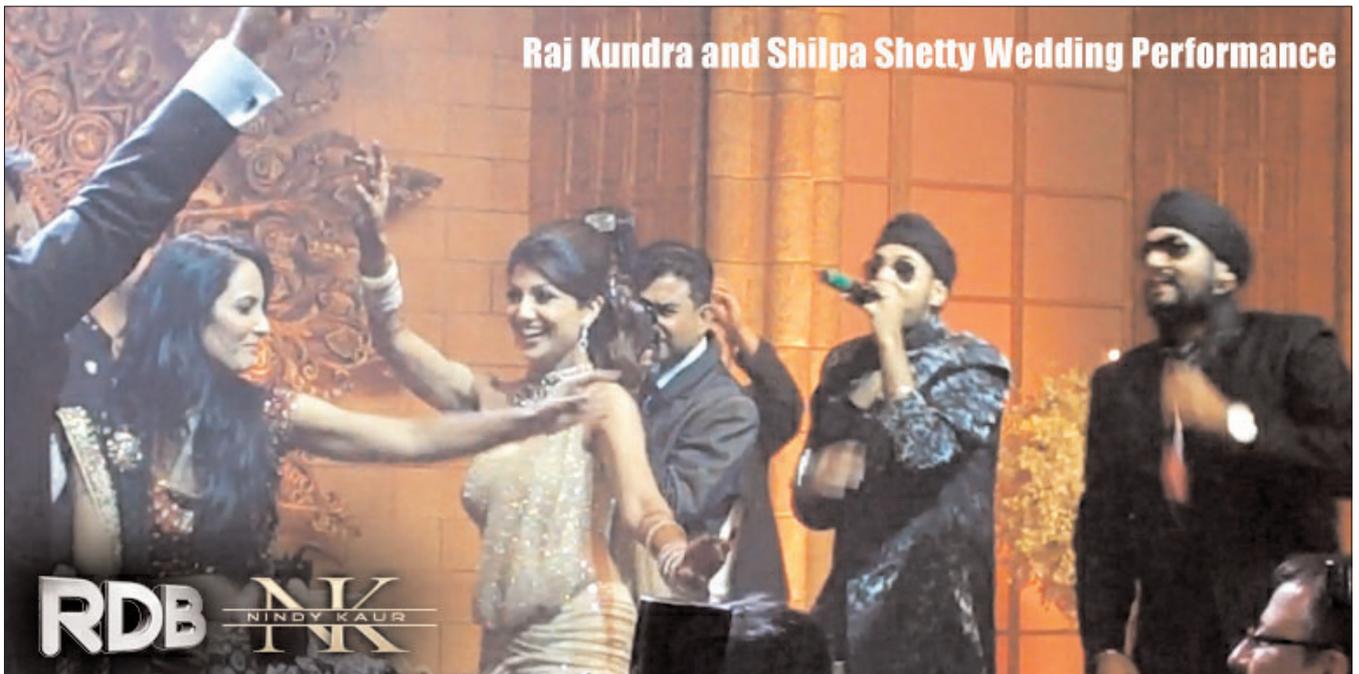
Over the past few months, there has been heavy promotion of the video with behind-the-scene footage and pictures from the shoot. Nindy Kaur is also in the process of working on her album. She has been a well-kept, secret weapon of RDB and plays a crucial part to their re-launch after three years.

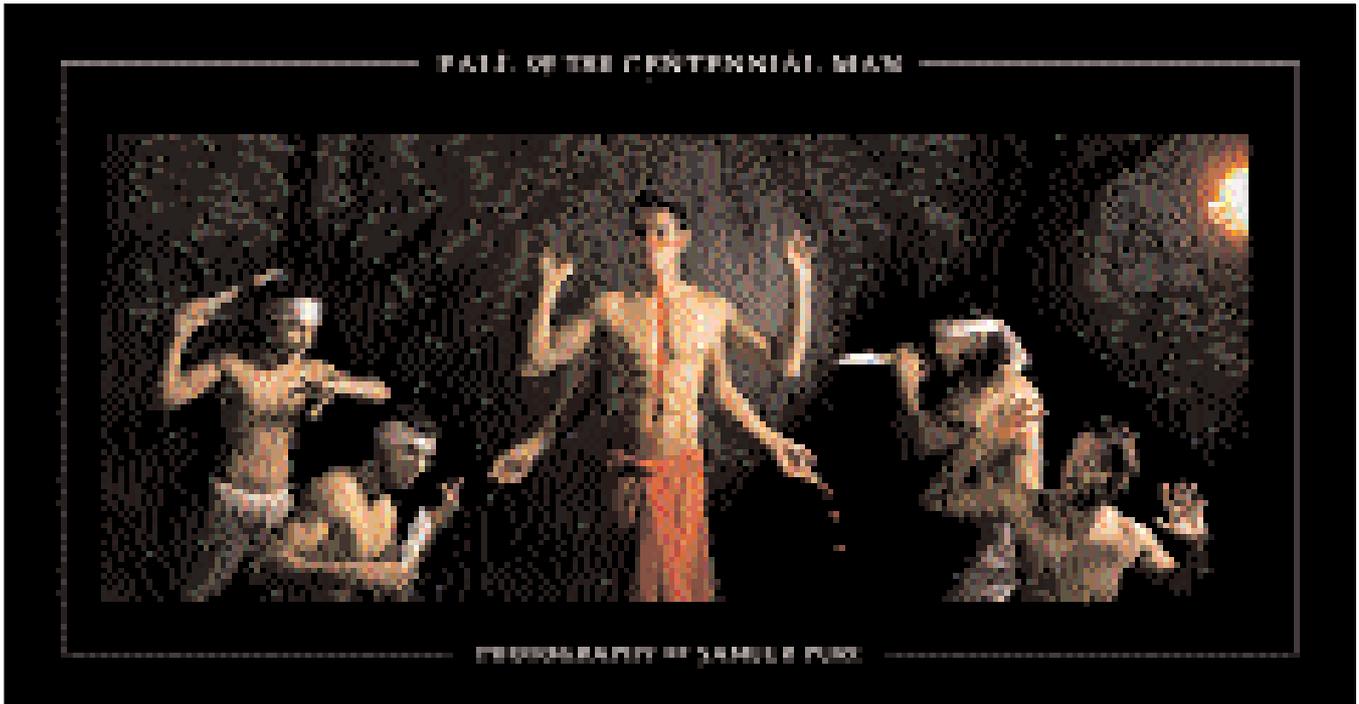
As I said before, I've been quite privileged to get to know RDB & Nindy Kaur from the inside circle. Yes, they are amazing artists, but they are also amazing people. There's a particular aura around them they are performing live; and it's incredible to see how passionate their fans are. Fans flock from around the world to their concerts, packing out venues across the world. 2010 ten is going to be beyond big for RDB & Nindy Kaur. And if want my advice, and want to know more about RDB & Nindy Kaur, then join their official Facebook fan-pages. You can also follow RDB & Nindy Kaur via Twitter, and keep updated with their video blogs on their official YouTube.

The multi-platinum selling artist. True pioneers in Punjabi music. International worldwide hit makers. Music, producers, and vocalists. Breaking all boundaries. Three letters: RDB.

With the success of their music in 'Aloo Chaat,' it was understood that more was to come from this unmatched group. Following 'Aloo Chaat,' their next major hit was 'Om Mangalam,' from the film, 'Kambaqth Ishq.' The track was featured in all the movie promos across the world and landed the #1 position on many Bollywood music charts as well. And if three hit songs weren't enough, RDB have ended the year with one last...

perform at the wedding reception of the year: Shilpa Shetty & Raj Kundra's. The group was personally requested, by Shetty, to attend and perform. The reception took place on November 24, 2009 at the Grand Hyatt Ballroom and was nothing less than spectacular. RDB took the stage for an hour and performed many of their hit songs. One song in particular which they performed, 'Mashoor,' meaning "famous," was especially composed for Shilpa and Raj. The feedback from the guests after hearing the track was so





GAP2000 FILMS

Driven by innovative YOUTH POWER

GAP2000 Films is a young, independent UK film production company aiming to bring inspiring movies into cinematic experience. Through liberal and cross-cultural story-telling, lives are enriched with artistic, humanitarian and historic values.

Our intention is a marriage of such unusual and border-free themes with powerful cinematography and commercial merit, to fulfil a demand for successful motion picture initiatives.

GAP2000's objective is to form the link between international markets and novel Indian content. Ours is a straightforward proposition to bring Indian themes and content with universal values to an international platform. We aim to achieve this by producing mature feature films appealing to a wider, global audience, and thereby moving away from traditional Bollywood musicals. Post-production will be accomplished in India to further significant cost savings whilst achieving a high-

end, qualitative cinematic look on par with international productions.

The Indian entertainment industry is awakening to an evolution of content development and good screenplays. Sparked by a buoyant Indian market and Indian/Western audience, that is both discerning and desirous of good

content and scripts, GAP2000 will build on this new momentum by creating original and innovative films with broader appeal.

We have developed a slate of films in various stages of development and are seeking co-production and financing opportunities with companies that share our vision.



Premila is a film producer and UK/India Co-Production Advisor from London. Premila gained a BA Hons in Law and Management Studies and a Masters in Philosophy in Marketing from England. A corporate headhunter, Premila's involvement in Delhi Boom! as executive producer focused on key role as investor and sound-board during preproduction. She continues to promote GAP2000 Films as a young, visionary production company to financiers, international buyers and agents. Premila is currently acting as an executive producer on Quick

Slip Me A Bride, a UK production starring Bipasha Basu and advising several other high-profile Anglo-Indian co-productions.



Premila

Q The current recession in the west have forced people to explore India in conventional business sectors and innovative sectors like films, you have considerable exposure of both the worlds. How do you rate the international acceptability of Indian films and content in the west specially with non PIO segment post recession?

A Irrespective of the recession, India always has been a source of curiosity and mystery when it comes to Indian films, particularly of Mumbai origin. International audiences love India and her magnificent culture but are terribly confused as to why we produce plagiarised films when we can draw upon the great creative wealth India possesses. Content/script/story is king, yet the vast majority of Indian films hitting international markets and film festivals have nothing new or inspiring to offer and so often are not even invited to compete at film festivals. We must show the world how uniquely positioned we are as a nation to produce powerful movies that befit Hollywood remakes, for example, as the Chinese did with *The Departed*. *Lagaan* is still praise-worthy internationally for its novel story and excellent narrative, but how often do such calibre of movies occur? Our target should not only be Indians living abroad, but global non-Indian audiences too. The broad appeal of movies like *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Bend it Like Beckham* or *Monsoon Wedding* indicates how receptive the world is, not only to Indian stories that are original and/or inspiring, but also how welcoming they are to the incredible talent we have in the Indian film industry.



The era of booming credit to innovative film production is history now, what strategy GAP2000 would be adopting to overcome this critical aspect?

Innovative films will never be history. Producers, distributors, and audiences are always keen on unusual movies with commercial potential. Shrinking budgets, limited financing options and commoditisation has forced producers to be more innovative, economical and efficient. For example, why shoot song sequences in the Swiss Alps when our own Himalayas are even more



magnificent? A credit crunch ensures we milk the most out of every dollar's worth without compromising on intelligent stories that appeal to a wider audience. Additionally, why pay a star 20 crores per film unless they guarantee returns of at least 20+1? If we produce efficiently, films shall continue to innovate.

GAP2000 is looking to build new momentum by creating original and innovative films with broader appeal, please explain your idea of original and innovative films and what do you mean by broader appeal?

A broader appeal is one that extends beyond Indian borders at-

tracting people from different nationalities and stratas of society. The audience today is intelligent, discerning and demanding. Tastes are merging and broadening. The world loves India but wants to see how we take our entertainment (our stories) and film structure (how we may make movies: corporatisation) to the next level. This doesn't imply bigger budgets necessarily. It's more about storylines that appeal to audiences of varying nationalities and how we distribute these movies from box office to ancillary rights.

How Corporatization of non structured film industry in India is helping GAP2000? Recently Opinion Express Group friend Anil Ambani led production house have started overseas film production to bring synergy between east and west, GAP2000 is having specific program similar to follow same pattern?

Though much progress has been made in recent times to regulate the industry and give it structure there's still more that needs doing in areas of film development, scripting, talent management, piracy and digital distribution to name a few. Acknowledging this has been the first welcome step and now its time to up the ante so local and foreign Production companies can truly benefit from producing and filming in India. We are at a tipping point where we are ready for change and absolutely unstoppable as India moves forward rapidly and we need the film infrastructure to be sound and rigorous to support this phenomenal growth and to compete globally. Our upbringing has been in Mumbai, The Hague and London so we were always uniquely exposed to myriad cultures and mindsets. From the early 90s Sameer and I spoke of making films that captured this 'international spirit' or that which you call 'synergy between east and west'. Its part of our identity and we are expressing this cinematically through GAP2000 Films: Indians at heart, international in outlook.



Sameer

Sameer is a writer, director and fashion/lifestyle photographer from London, Sameer's debut feature 'Delhi Boom!' premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2007 following a deal with Italian distributor, Minerva Pictures Group. A Management Studies graduate, Sameer is a writer, director and photographer based in London.

Technically and creatively gifted, he established an art and design lab in The Hague in 1998 with clients such as Dutch television giant Veronica. Sameer endeavours to make films that motivate people towards happiness and inspiration. He has wrapped scripting 'The White Room', is currently penning Ken Ghosh's next feature and developing an action espionage remake of 'Delhi Boom!' Born in Mumbai, India on 8 April 1977, Sameer was raised in the city until aged 7, when his family shifted base to The Netherlands. Growing up in The Hague exposed him to art, architecture and photography.

Combined with a native interest in philosophy, theosophy and history, Sameer realised modes of expression for individual thought and style.

Alongside his study in economics and marketing, a passion for films encouraged Sameer to pursue a strong sense of visual identity, drama and characterisation. It was in his early 20s that Sameer aligned artistic and commercial skills to develop projects in The Hague.

Sameer having moved to London years earlier, Sameer commenced pre-production on his debut feature film Delhi Boom!

He wrote, shot, directed, and edited it. The road to completion would be 2 years long and following its first screening at the Cannes Film Festival 2007, Delhi Boom! is appreciated for its unique and experimental quality. A resident of London, Sameer is currently developing projects under GAP2000 Films' banner in Mumbai.

Q Fashion photography is recently turned professional in India, the remunerations are sufficient to sustain an independent company?

A Professionalism should be rewarded with good remuneration. Photography is my passion and I would never renounce it. Fortunately I am well remunerated as my past work, as well as the ability to understand a client's need and create fresh concepts has been well appreciated in Mumbai. I refuse plagiarised concepts and adhere to original work especially where I see clients who are equally passionate about aesthetic and commercial values. Intelligent clients value the role of an experienced photographer who understands them or their product or service. Naturally this leads to rewards that are worth my time and efforts, and to a fantastic shoot.

How your studies in conventional subjects like economics and marketing have helped you in achieving success in non conventional sector of fashion photography?

When I was growing up in Netherlands I specialised in economics, literature, architecture and photography. Eventually I specialised in marketing and economics but ended up in the dot com world of ecommerce and design. My first client was a Dutch television channel. As a 20-year-old entrepreneur I had to avoid the eccentricity of being overly creative and balance it with sound business decisions. My advantages became clearer; I am commercial and creative simultaneously.

Your profile suggest that your skills are basically focused on fashion and lifestyle, but you have stated that bringing out modes of expression for individual thoughts is part of your comprehensive skill, you have any program to highlight social problems through the power of your camera?

Modes of expression can be any medium of visual, verbal or written communication. I am an artist and so an expression of some thought or ideal is essential to my work, whether it's commercial or not. Essentially I draw inspiration from my soul and through wonderful experiences we have as human beings. As a photographer I am focussed on art. Fashion and lifestyle photography is an extension of the artistic world applied to a commercial field. But there are other facets to my professional personality. As a screenplay writer I draw from slightly different sources of inspiration: personal experience and imagination. And as a director I'm looking at new ways of telling stories that entertain yet touch the soul simultaneously. It's not just pro bono work through photography that highlights GAP2000's social consciousness. Our scripts touch upon very interesting social and deeply spiritual issues that will take the audience on historical, cultural and adventurous journeys.



Multiple investment OPTIONS IN INDIA

By U S Tiwari

Foreign funds are flowing into India and China as also into some of the other emerging market economies as they have been among the few star performers when the global economy is struggling to emerge out of the meltdown.

With the Indian economy on a long-term growth curve, non-resident Indians (NRIs) can look at multiple investment options available to them to park their funds in their home country. Compared with the returns they may generate by investing in the US or European countries, the takings from India will be considerably higher.

The Indian government is offering several investment facilities to NRIs, persons of Indian origin (PIOs) and overseas corporate bodies (OCBs). While NRI refers to an Indian citizen who resides outside India, PIO refers to an individual who at any time held an Indian passport, or any of whose parents or grandparents was a citizen of India.

According to the laws, NRIs/PIOs/OCBs/ are permitted to open bank accounts in India

A '24% Scheme' allows Indian companies, except those engaged in agricultural activities, to issue up to 24% of their shares and debentures to NRIs with repatriation benefits. Similarly, the '40% scheme' allows for purchase of equity...

out of funds remitted from abroad. The foreign exchange can be brought in from abroad through an authorized dealer or can be from the funds which are legitimately due to them in India.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted general permission to NRIs/PIOs, for undertaking direct investments in Indian companies, under the automatic route purchase of shares.

NRIs can make investments in all the investment options which are available to resident Indians. However, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) can only make investments in

LURING NRI FUNDS

Investment options available to NRIs in India are as follows:

- Investment in the Indian equities markets, including IPOs
- Investment in mutual funds
- Company fixed deposits and non-convertible debentures of companies
- Real estate investments
- Government securities
- National Savings Certificates issued by post offices in India
- Deposits in Indian banks

non-agricultural businesses in the country.

To make payments for investments, an NRI needs to use an NRE account (Non-Resident External Rupee Account), NRO Account (Non-Resident Ordinary Rupee Account), FCNR Account (Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account).

A '24% Scheme' allows Indian companies, except those engaged in agricultural activities, to issue up to 24% of their shares and debentures to NRIs with repatriation benefits.

Similarly, the '40% scheme' allows for purchase of equity, preference shares and convertible debentures not exceeding 51% of the face value of each issue. Repatriation of up to 40% of the new issue is allowed. Under this scheme, NRIs can invest in new projects or in expansion and diversification projects of existing companies.

Different tax benefits available to NRIs:

- Interest earned on NRE and FCNR accounts is completely tax-free
- Bank deposits investment in shares, units of mutual funds, etc. are exempt from wealth tax in India



· Tax exemption provided for gifts given during marriage, inheritance left behind in a will or if the payer has died.

Special term deposit accounts: These are reinvestment deposits. Interest earned on the deposits is added to the principal and compounded at quarterly intervals. The principal amount together with interest is repaid on maturity of the deposit. Net yield on these accounts is distinctly higher because of compounding of interest at quarterly intervals.

Cash certificates: All conditions detailed above for Special Term deposits apply to Cash Certificate Deposits. On maturity, a round sum, for example, Rs 50,000, Rs 100,000, Rs 10,00,000, etc is received. Excellent for long-term deposits.

Thrift deposit scheme: A recurring deposit scheme. Fixed sums are deposited every month for a fixed period. Compound interest is payable at the same rates as applicable to other term deposits. The same condition as above is also applicable for Non-Resident Special Rupee (NRSR) account introduced by the Reserve Bank of India.

(Writer is practicing Chartered Accountant)

RECESSION
EFFECTKerala NRIs in
Middle East
lose jobs

At least 37,000 emigrants from Kerala have lost jobs overseas because of the global recession, says a report released Tuesday by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), a Thiruvananthapuram based think tank. The study, titled "Impact of Global



Recession on Kerala Emigrants: Unemployment, Return Migration and Remittances", was conducted by demographers K.C. Zachariah and S. Irudaya Rajan and funded by the state government's Non-resident Keralites Affairs Department.

Zachariah, while presenting the findings of the study, said most non-resident Malayalees returned for reasons not related to recession.

"We estimate that the number of emigrants who returned due to recession would at most be 63,000. This number could be as small as 37,000 also," the study noted.

About 173,000 emigrants from Kerala returned home between October 2008 and June 2009. Interestingly, 142,000 new emigrants reached Middle East on employment visas apart from another 97,000 people who had worked in the region earlier and again got jobs in the Gulf on fresh employment visas.

The report said 53 percent of unemployed emigrants are from the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia accounts for about 14 percent, Kuwait 6 percent, and Oman and Bahrain account for 4 percent each. Irudayarajan said cash remittances to the state rose seven percent during the period under study. "This is quite an unexpected result. Recession is supposed to decrease remittances, not increase it," he told IANS. According to Irudayarajan, remittances could have increased as some emigrants were returning home permanently bringing with them all their accumulated wealth.

(Dubai Bureau)



India sends most students to the US

By Divyansh Bajpai, US Bureau Chief

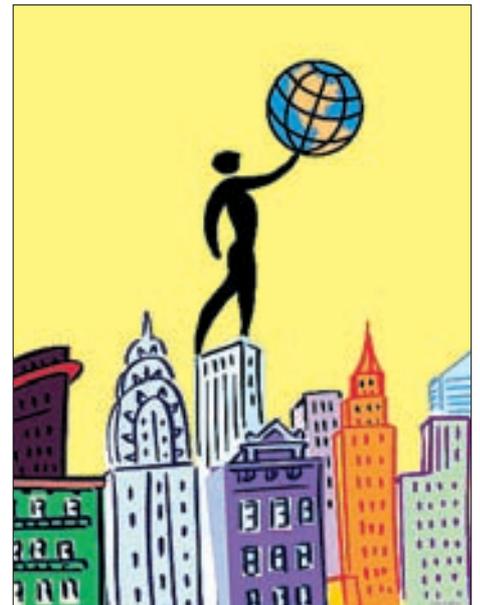
India sent over 103,000 students to the US in 2008-09, the maximum number from any country, a new survey said. At the same time, India became one of the favorite destinations of American students. According to the Open Doors 2009 survey by the Institute of International Education released Monday, India remains the leading place of origin for the eighth consecutive year, increasing by nine percent to 103,260.

Students from China increased 21 percent for a total of 98,510. South Korea, in third place, increased nine percent to 75,065. Canada, the only non-Asian country in the top five, rose to fourth place with an increase of two percent to 29,697, surpassing Japan, now in fifth place after students declined for the fourth consecutive year.

The number of international students at colleges and universities in the US increased by eight percent to an all-time high of 671,616 in the 2008-09 academic year.

This is the largest percentage increase in international student enrolments since 1980-81, and marks the third consecutive year of significant growth.

The Open Doors 2009 data reports on enrolments in academic year 2008-09 based on a comprehensive survey of approximately 3,000



accredited US higher education institutions of all types and sizes, regarding international students at all levels of study. According to the survey, universities in California hosted the largest number of foreign students with 93,124, up 10 percent, followed by New York with 74,934, up seven percent, and Texas with 58,188, up 12 percent.



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife Gursharan Kaur meeting with all the guests at a reception hosted by the Indian Ambassador to US Meera Shankar (3rd R) in Washington on Wednesday

US Indians urged to join India's growth strategy

At the conclusion of his state visit to Washington DC, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh invited people of Indian origin abroad to take advantage of modern technology and flexible policies to build a "true intellectual and business partnership" between Indians and Americans.

"India is on the march," he told a gathering of the Indian American community at a reception hosted by the Indian Ambassador to the US, Meera Shankar, at the end of what he described as "a fruitful and most stimulating visit".

"While the global slowdown has hurt us too, we have been able to catch our breath and move forward," Manmohan Singh said, noting: "With a gross savings ratio of over 35 percent of national income, and a gross investment ratio that is almost close to 40 percent, we now have the economic pre-conditions for sustained high growth". But "growth brings with it new challenges and new opportunities", he said, underlining India's need for investment in education and health care to build better systems in these spheres, besides modern infrastructure, Manmohan Singh said.

"More than the resources, however, we will require imagination and innovation to succeed," the prime minister said, suggesting:

PM lauds the
Trinidad diaspora
for promoting
brand India

After visiting Washington, DC, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh began his three-day visit to the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago with a call to nearly a million persons of Indian origin in this region to be "active partners" in "a new India" and lauded overseas Indians for promoting Brand India. He came to Port of Spain to attend the 53-nation Commonwealth Summit.

"Today's India is on the move, just as the people of Indian origin are on the move. India is reaching out to the world with confidence and in a spirit of live and let live," Manmohan Singh told over 400 people at a reception organized in his honor at the grand Crowne Plaza hotel.

"People of Indian origin worldwide can contribute mightily to this effort".

Noting that in the past few years India had already experienced what has been called a "reverse brain-drain" but which he preferred to call "brain gain" or, indeed, "a meeting of minds", he said India had tried to encourage this flow by making it easier for Indian and American scholars, scientists, business leaders and other professionals to work together.

Acknowledging the contribution a dynamic and creative community of Indian Americans to India's progress and modernisation, he invited all Indian Americans and non-resident Indians who wish to return home to India in one capacity or another. "You no longer have to make a choice between here and there. Modern technology and our flexible policies have opened possibilities of working in both places," he said. "I want to see a true intellectual and business partnership between Indians and Americans in years to come."

Appreciating the enterprise and contribution to knowledge and commerce with which "you have given the land of your ancestors a new identity in the new world", Manmohan Singh hoped that "you will be the bridge that will continue to connect our two nations and societies".

Indian immig in America on TV

JUS Punjabi, a cable and satellite TV network has recorded a series of episodes on Indians in America with special reference to Punjabis who were in large majority among the Indian immigrants during the first four decades of the twentieth century.

The five episodes are based on the published articles authored by GOPIO Chairman Inder Singh who regularly writes and speaks on Indian Diaspora in conferences in the US and India. The episodes include:

1. Start of Indian immigration with the arrival of four retired soldiers from Hong Kong and landing in San Francisco in 1899 and coming of about 2000 more from 1899 to 1907. Encountering unimagined hardships and racial prejudice in finding/holding jobs in the new country. Attracting wrath of labor unions which took law unto their own hands by beating the 'Hindoos' as they were known then, looting their belongings and forcing all 250 to leave the city of Bellingham for good. Similar incidents repeated in some other cities.

2. Pressure of labor unions on elected officials to legally stop Asian immigration. Eventually they succeeded in getting the law passed in 1917 barring all Indians/Asians to come to the US legally. Indians attributed their plight in America to their being citizens of slave India, so they formed an association what is commonly known as the Gadar Party to free India by the force of arms from the British colonial rule. As many as 6000-8000 Indians living in America, Canada and other countries left for India to fight against the British rule while Britain was busy fighting World War I. Unfortunately, on reaching India, many were arrested and jailed and several were imprisoned in America as a result of "Hindu Conspiracy Trial".

3. Without American citizenship, majority of Indians who were formers in India, could not buy land or homes. Some educated Indians did get US citizenship but US Supreme court in 1923 revoked their citizenship.

4. Indians started their struggle to regain US citizenship through legislative process. After long and hard fight, the US Congress gave citizenship rights in 1946 to 100 Indians annually. A new phase of immigration from India started with liberalization of immigration laws in 1967.

5. New waves of Indians arrival began after the liberalization of immigration laws. Today, there are over 2.5 million Indians in the US.

The weekly airing of the episodes started on Saturday at 7:00 PM (Eastern), November 14, 2009. After the final episode is aired on December 12, 2009, the series was repeated at the same time starting December 19, 2009.



L. to R. - GOPIO Int'l Exec Vice President Ashook Ramsaran, PM Patrick Manning, GOPIO TnT Chapter President Deosaran Bisnath

GOPIO officers meet Trinidad and Tobago government officials

Representatives of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) met with officials of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in Port of Spain on Thursday, October 29, 2009, to discuss matters of interest and concern to GOPIO TnT Chapter and its membership as well as to GOPIO International.

GOPIO International Executive Vice President Ashook Ramsaran and GOPIO TnT Chapter President Deosaran Bisnath held three separate meetings with TnT Prime Minister Patrick Manning, TnT President Dr Maxwell Richards and TnT Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr. Lenny Saith.

Ramsaran and Bisnath were accompanied by GOPIO TnT Chapter Public

Relations Officer Ena Maraj.

The meetings were very constructive and productive as the topics of discussion covered matters ranging from support for GOPIO TnT Chapter community activities such as seminars on alcoholism and education, the alarming crime rates, and GOPIO TnT Chapter's input and recommendations for panelists on the Integrity Commission, the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Equal Opportunity Tribunal as well as appointments to state boards and commissions.

Also discussed was the proposal being made by GOPIO to the Government of India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) for a regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad in 2010.



GOPIO Medical Camp in New Jersey: Participating doctors with officials and volunteers of GOPIO-Central Jersey and Rotary Club of Plainsboro

World Bank says India will grow 8-9% in two years

World Bank president Robert Zoellick, on a trip to India, announced that India's growth rates could see a return to the 8-9 percent envisaged in the country's 11th Five Year Plan, over the next year or two.

Zoellick who met PM Manmohan Singh and Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India has emerged from the economic crisis with a clear vision of what it will take to accelerate to earlier growth rates and beyond, as its strong fiscal and monetary policies have helped counter the decline in exports and withstand some external shocks brought on by the multiple food, fuel and financial crisis.

The World Bank has delivered around \$5.3 billion to India this fiscal with commitments to power, infrastructure, banking, rural development and water.

In the areas of agriculture and rural development the World Bank plans to raise its commitment between 2009-12 to \$5.3 billion.

India became the largest portfolio last fiscal for the International Finance Corp, the World Bank's private sector arm, at over \$3.4 billion.

The rising



India has 500 million cell phone numbers

By the start of 2010 India will have breached half a billion wireless connections. Overall phone connections in India, both fixed and wireless, is over 550 million, that translates into a teledensity of roughly 45 percent, an urban teledensity close to 97 percent and a rural teledensity of around 18 percent.



In contrast wired connectivity is down to 37.25 million phones. India's broadband penetration is low at 7.5 million a consequence of policy failure partly due to the declining use of wireline phones.

India has some 14 operators providing wireless connectivity, mostly mobiles, in its 22 service areas.

The numbers will make India the second largest group of cell phone users in the world after China.

(Report dated December-15-2009)





**GLOBAL
ECONOMIC
SUMMIT**
ON TRADE & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**January 20-22, 2010
Hotel Taj Mahal, Mumbai, India**

**An exclusive opportunity to network with leading companies,
decision makers, industry experts & policy makers**

Objective of the Summit

- Provide international forum for policy/decision makers to present the business prospects & investment opportunities in industry sectors & infrastructure to investors and business fraternity.
- Project India as the next economic power house and present the business prospects & investment opportunities.

Highlights of the Summit

- Hon'ble President of India, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and other Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of various states have been invited to the Summit.
- Presentations by the important State Governments in India on trade & investment opportunities.
- Prescheduled Buyer Seller meets / business networking sessions for identifying collaborators, Joint ventures.

Sectors Covered

- Infrastructure – Roads, Ports, Railways
- Services – Financial & Health care / Education
- Energy – Renewable, Solar & Thermal
- Technology & Industry – Bio Technology, Agro & Food Processing

Who Should Attend

- Manufacturing Companies
- Service / Consulting Companies
- Research Organizations
- Industry Organizations
- Development Corporations
- Central & State Govt. Ministries / Agencies
- Embassies / High Commissions
- Banks / Financial Institutions / Vcs
- Academic Institutions

Summit Fee Foreign Delegates : US\$ 200 Per head
Indian Delegates : INR 10,000/-

About the Organisers



Established in the year 1956, AII is the leading business support organization in Mumbai, the commercial capital of India. AII fosters international trade, joint ventures, technology transfers, explores overseas markets for Indian SMEs, facilitates business networking, provides business mentoring services, represents industry on various Central & State government committees.



World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai established in 1970 is a premier foreign trade promotion organization. Member of World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) New York and World Federation of Trade Point, Geneva. WTC Mumbai is linked to more than 300 WTC's and 100 TP's over 100 countries around the globe. WTC Mumbai is the only operating WTC in India.

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