

india

matters

- ◆ Minister for New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah visits Dubai
- ◆ Exhibition of rare photographic prints of India
- ◆ 10th Auto Expo held in New Delhi from January 5 to 11

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2010



BOOK ON INDIA-UAE TIES LAUNCHED



Special report on Pravasi
Bharatiya Divas 2010, New Delhi



FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL'S DESK

I am extremely happy to inform you that a book, authored by me, titled *India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship*, was released this month.

It is my ode to my three-year tenure in Dubai. I have authored it after about 19 months of research and submit it as a humble offering to the great people of the UAE and of India.

I had the opportunity of presenting the first copy of the book to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, on January 25, 2010, the eve of India's 61st Republic Day.

I have also presented copies of the book to the Rulers of Sharjah and Ajman and the Crown Princes of Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah and Ajman.

I met HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, for a farewell call and invited him to visit India. I believe such a visit will take India-UAE relations to greater heights.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) 2010, which was one of the biggest highlights of the month of January has been covered extensively in this issue. My special congratulations to Dr. Azad Moopen, physician-turned-entrepreneur, who manages one of the largest healthcare networks in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for having been conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman. His investment of over \$200 million for setting up hospitals and eye-care centres across India, including his home state of Kerala, will touch many lives.

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of PBD 2010, prominent Gulf non-resident Indians voiced their problems and suggestions at a session, 'Indians and the Gulf: Gulf Session,' in the presence of Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi, Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor and Minister of State for Railways E. Ahamed, details of which are also in the magazine.

The Government is conferring the Padma Shri Award on Dr. J.R. Gangaramani, President and Executive Chairman of the Al Fara'a Integrated Construction Group. The award will be bestowed on him for his business achievements, which have been marked by an exceptional journey of three decades. My heartiest congratulations to him.

Venu Rajamony



LETTERS TO EDITOR

I am highly impressed with Consul General Venu Rajamony's book, *India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship*. The book portrays in writing/pictures and colours the true relationship between the two closely bonded countries where friendship began centuries ago but more so during the last and present century. While other local families had their own special connection, mine was an enduring one. The book, in all its form and grandeur, represents the true bond and friendship between the two closely knitted countries. It is so rich in information and knowledge that I highly recommend that it should be circulated in all government, semi-government and private institutions and offices.

Majid Abdul Razak
Chairman, Living Zone LLC

I often read the magazine online at www.cgidubai.com. I would like to complement the team on its efforts. The magazine is comprehensive and keeps us abreast with the latest happening in the Indian community in the UAE.

Mohit Seth
Businessmen. Ras Al Khaimah

It is interesting to read the travel pages in the publication. The travel options in India are many. I am glad a magazine like this showcases the real India, to the international community here in Dubai.

Stephen Cash
Tourist. Dubai



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Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi welcomes Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the opening ceremony of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010 in New Delhi on January 8.

A NEW BEGINNING

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assures voting rights, social security for NRIs

Voting rights by the next general elections, and social security to tide over economic distress were the highlights of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's assurances to non-resident Indians as he asked the vast diaspora to tap the opportunities their country of origin now offers.

"I recognise the legitimate desire of Indians living abroad to exercise their franchise and to have a say in who governs India," the Prime Minister told the annual conclave for the Indian diaspora.

"We are working on this issue and I sincerely hope that they will get a chance to vote by the time of the next regular general elections," he said at the eighth edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in New Delhi.

"In fact, I would go a step further and ask why more overseas Indians should not return home to join politics and public life

as they are increasingly doing in business and academia."

The Prime Minister said security of Indians abroad remained high on his Government's agenda. He promised a fund to help Indians returning to their country after facing financial distress caused by the global slowdown.

"Security of our overseas workers and students is top priority," he said. "We are conscious of the need to structure an appropriate return and resettlement fund. We are working on a project to provide a social security net for the returning workers."

This apart, Indian Community Welfare Funds have been established in 18 countries to provide food, shelter, repatriation assistance and emergency relief to overseas Indians in distress, he said.

Some 1,500 delegates from 50-plus countries attended the conclave that the

country hosts annually to connect with its 25 million diaspora in 130 countries.

The Prime Minister said, while people all over were legitimately proud of India's vibrant democracy, the Government had not been able to deliver in full measure on the enormous promise and potential of the country.

"I recognise the frustration well wishers feel when they lament why things don't work faster or why well formulated plans and policies don't get implemented as well as they should be."

He said there was a price India was paying to carry all sections of its people along in national development, but that was a price worth paying. "It is probably true we are a slow moving elephant but it is equally true that with each step forward we leave behind a deep imprint."

Referring to the giant strides being made

by India, the Prime Minister said the country's economy will not only register one of the fastest expansions in the world this fiscal but soon return and sustain a high growth path of 9 percent. "During the year gone by, the world faced unprecedented economic and financial crisis. But the Indian economy weathered this crisis quite well," he said.

"We hope to achieve this year a growth rate of around 7 percent, which is one of the fastest in the world. We are equally optimistic we can return to and sustain an annual growth rate of 9-10 percent in a couple of years," the Dr. Singh said.

"The rapid growth of India's economy in the last few years has helped lift millions of people out of poverty. We have been able to expand access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities to a vast majority of our population.

"This is, however, a work in progress and much more remains to be done. I



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Chief Guest Lord Khalid Hameed of Hampstead at PBD 2010.

solicit your assistance to achieve those goals. We wish to accelerate the efforts to effectively address the key constraints in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, health and education. These are the key priorities for the second term of our Government," he told the gathering.

"We seek the active involvement of the overseas Indian communities in accelerating the pace of our economic and social development. In this context, it is important that we make efforts to connect the second gen-

eration of overseas Indians with their ancestral heritage and involve them actively in India's march forward," he added.

"India is today one of the top investment destinations. Economic opportunities are expanding everywhere. Overseas Indians, however, while being good savers tend to be somewhat conservative investors. Most remittances are placed in bank deposits. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India by overseas Indians is low and far short of potential. I would urge

overseas Indians to take a careful look at long-term investment opportunities now on the horizon in our country," he said.

"Indian industry is rapidly developing a global orientation. Many Indian companies are transforming themselves into multinational corporations with global brand names. As Indian industry steps outward, the Indian diaspora could do more to inter-link Indian industry with global markets. They could reinforce the improving brand image of India. I sincerely hope that the

Create a new Indian model: Pitroda

India's knowledge sector offers a great window of opportunity to overseas Indians to join hands with the country in its high growth trajectory and invest in its future, technology evangelist Sam Pitroda said on January 8.

Though the country recorded more than 7 percent growth over the last five years, the next challenge is inclusive growth, Pitroda said at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010.

There is still a great deal of disparity in this country – disparity between rich and poor, urban and rural and educated and uneducated, he said.

"I request you to engage with India, knowing this is a great window of opportunity," he added.

Speaking on 'Diaspora—Role and Expectations' at a plenary session, Pitroda, regarded as the father of India's telecom revolution, said it was imperative for the country to look at the future



Sam Pitroda at the 'Diaspora—Role and Expectations' session at PBD-2010.

of its population below the age of 25, who today number 550 million.

In this context, Pitroda recalled the

five aspects of education Prime Minister Manmohan Singh looked at four years ago. "These are access to knowledge, producing teachers for the future, application of this knowledge, creation of knowledge and role of knowledge in governance," said the former chairman of India's Knowledge Commission.

"We now plan to build 30 new national universities and 40 new innovation universities," Pitroda, also an adviser to the Prime Minister, said. He added that the Government had allocated \$67 billion for education in the 11th Five-Year Plan.

According to him, all these offered a unique opportunity for overseas Indians to join hands in building new universities and working at these institutions, while also improving vocational education system in the country.

"We have to create a new Indian model," Pitroda added.

9-10% growth possible: Pranab

With the worst of the global economic crisis over, India can now achieve 9-10 percent growth in the near future, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, adding the economy is expected to expand 7.75 percent this fiscal.

"The Indian economy is on the growth trajectory path. We may expect 7.75 percent growth this fiscal," Mukherjee said, while addressing the first plenary session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010 on January 8.

"I am quite confident if things go the way they are going, it is possible to achieve a growth of 9-10 percent," he said, detailing the manner in which India had ridden out the global meltdown.

"In January 2009, when I took over, the challenge was whether to go the traditional way and wait for sunny days or take steps that were not conventional," the Finance Minister said, referring to the



Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee addressing the gathering at the first plenary session of the PBD-2010.

Rs. 186,000 crore (\$37 billion) stimulus packages to generate internal demand.

"The risk paid off. In the first two quarters of 2009-10 – in April-June the

growth was 6.1 percent and in July-September it was 7.9 percent. So, in the first six months, growth has been 7 percent against 5.8 percent in the corresponding period of last fiscal," he added.

Tracing India's growth path, the Finance Minister said, for the first time, a figure of 8.6 percent had been achieved between 2004 and 2009.

In this context, Mukherjee said the reforms process initiated since 1991 was "still continuing because its architect (then finance minister Manmohan Singh) is today the country's Prime Minister".

Speaking about some of the recent initiatives of the Government, he said consensus was emerging on a new direct tax code, with experts roped in to simplify the forms so that one was able to understand the fine print it on his own.

"I hope to introduce it in 2011-12 as targeted," he said.

newly established Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre will become an effective hub for promoting two-way interaction between the overseas Indian community and our institutions," Singh added.

On FDI, Singh said: "About 40 percent of the total remittances of over \$50 billion in 2007-2008 came from skilled and semi-skilled overseas Indian workers. The security of our overseas workers and students is a top priority of my Government."

"We are conscious of the need to structure an appropriate 'Return and Resettlement Fund' and we are working on a project to provide a social security safety net for the returning workers."

The Prime Minister added: "We have been negotiating with the governments of countries with large emigrant Indian populations to improve the welfare and protection offered to our workers.

"Over the last year, we have signed labour agreements with Malaysia, Bahrain and Qatar that create institutional frameworks to look into issues such as recruitment, terms of employment and workers' welfare.

"We also signed social security agree-



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardees.

ments last year with Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and are now negotiating such agreements with a number of other countries," he added.

"We would like to benefit from the services of overseas Indian professionals and volunteers to help Indian workers upgrade skills in specific trade where there is growing demand," Dr. Singh said.

"At the meeting of the (Prime Minister's Global Advisory) Council, some very valuable suggestions were made to upgrade the quality of higher education system in our

country," he said.

"We are now working to enhance work opportunities for our skilled manpower particularly in the west. We are trying to build labour-mobility partnerships with key countries in the European Union and have finalised one such partnership with Denmark.

"These agreements will help to maximise benefits from labour mobility while addressing host country concerns such as irregular migration and integration problems," the Prime Minister concluded. ❖



M.A. Yusuff Ali.

'Gulf a dream destination'

The Gulf will remain a "dream destination" for Indians and there is no serious impact of the global slowdown in the Middle East, save for some problems in the construction industry in Dubai, well-known NRI businessman M.A. Yusuff Ali said.

"Oil is a major income source in the Middle East. The oil sector is very strong there as prices of oil are improving," said Ali, Managing Director of the Emke Group that employs 22,000 people in the Gulf countries, Hong Kong and mainland China, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania and Thailand.

"If something happens to the oil sector, only then it would be true to say that

there's a financial crisis in Gulf countries," Ali, who was in New Delhi to attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010, said.

According to Ali, who is also a member of the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council, some companies in Europe with their "opportunistic mindsets" had sought to create panic that the Middle East was hit hard by the global economic meltdown.

"Some companies operating from Europe and the US sacked many employees in the name of recession. They did so as they wanted to re-recruit employees cheap," said Ali.

"But Gulf is and will remain a dream destination for Indians," he added.



From left, Ravi Pillai, MD, Nasser S. Al Hajri Corporation; Syed M. Salahuddin, Director, ETA Ascon & Star Group; M.A. Yusuff Ali, MD of EMKE Group; Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor and C.K. Menon, MD, Behzad Group of Companies.

Moopen to invest \$200 mn in Indian health care

Gulf-based healthcare tycoon Azad Moopen is investing over Rs. 10 billion (\$200 million) for setting up hospitals and eye-care centres across India, including his home state of Kerala.

"There is a huge opportunity in India. India will become one of the major powers in 25 years," said Moopen, who is the Chairman of the Dubai-based Dr. Moopen group and the Kozhikode-based Malabar Institute of Medical Sciences.

"We have already started the Medicity project in 40 acres of land in Kochi. It is a Rs. 500 crore (\$100 million) project. It will be completed in three years," Moopen said.



President Pratibha Patil gives Pravasi Bharatiya Samman to Azad Moopen.

'Bring mini-PBD to the Gulf'

Taking overseas Indians into consideration in the Government's divestment process and creating Islamic-finance friendly projects to attract Gulf investments were among the various suggestions overseas Indians from the Gulf made to the government on January 9.

At a session on 'Indians and the Gulf: Gulf Session,' prominent Gulf non-resident Indians voiced their problems and suggestions in the presence of three ministers — Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi, Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor and Minister of State for Railways, E. Ahamed.

UAE-based EMKE Group's Managing Director M.A. Yusuff Ali set the tone by suggesting that the Government hold the next edition of mini-PBD in the Gulf.

"Let the Government decide on the venue and we Indians in the Gulf will fully help in its organisation," he said.

Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar's Behzad Group of Companies C.K. Menon said Gulf nations were sitting on huge investible funds and were looking to put this money in emerging economies.

Director of the UAE's ETA Ascon & Star Group Syed M. Salahuddin sought the Government's help in setting up better schools for Indian students in the Gulf.

Tharoor said that India would not take Gulf countries for granted. "Precisely because we have no problems in our ties with the Gulf, we should not let it slip into complacency," he said.



‘Join the growth ride’

President Pratibha Patil hailed Indian workers in the Gulf for contributing nearly 40 percent of remittances – about \$20 billion annually – from across the diaspora

President Pratibha Patil has urged overseas Indians to participate in and benefit from the country’s “unfolding” growth story.

“In the social infrastructure sector as also physical infrastructure development, India is looking at the investment increasingly in the public-private partnership model. Financing needs are estimated to be over \$500 billion in the next five years,” she said while addressing the valedictory function of the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) on January 9.

The Government has focused on improving the quality and quantity of

education at all levels and expanding healthcare infrastructure, Patil said, adding that this “presents an unprecedented opportunity, including for our overseas community, to participate in and benefit from India’s unfolding growth story”.

“The Indian growth story is an absorbing, exciting and a continuing one. We are a big and a growing market,” the President said and added that the country’s banks and financial institutions are based on “best practices” in fiduciary responsibility and are well-regulated. “All this has enabled us to cope with one of the worst economic downturns in recent history, better than

many other countries and it has also meant a quicker recovery,” she said.

Patil specially congratulated the overseas Indian workers in the Gulf who contribute nearly 40 percent of remittances from the diaspora.

“India’s remittances from overseas Indians, estimated at over \$50 billion last year, were the highest in the world. What is less known, though, is the fact that nearly 40 percent of these remittances – about \$20 billion annually – come from overseas Indian workers in the Gulf consisting of temporary contractual skilled and semi-skilled workers,” she said.

President Pratibha Patil with 14 Pravasi Bharatiya Sammaan awardees in New Delhi.

“They often face harsh living and working conditions and are separated from their families for long periods of time. I take this opportunity to salute Indian workers in the Gulf,” the President said.

Patil said India was looking at an investment potential of \$500 billion in sprucing up physical infrastructure alone over the next five years. This apart, the country is also looking at expanding social infrastructure in health care and education. “The expenditure on healthcare infrastructure in the country is projected to grow at 5.8 percent annually. This presents an unprecedented opportunity including for our overseas community to participate and benefit in India’s unfolding growth story,” she added.

Earlier, Patil conferred the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Sammaan award on 14 distinguished members of the Indian diaspora for their achievements in life and contribution to the welfare of the community and enhancing India’s image overseas. ❖

PROFILES OF PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARDEES

Upendra Chivukula is the first Indian American to be elected to the New Jersey General Assembly and only the fourth Indian American in the U.S. to be elected to state office in 2001. He came to the US in 1974 and became involved in politics after he graduated from the City University of New York.

Mohinder Singh Bhullar, a successful businessman in Brunei Darussalam, was instrumental in the formation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Brunei Darussalam. He has assisted the Indian community in that southeast Asian nation and has acted as a bridge between India and Brunei Darussalam.

Yanktesh Pirmal Reddy, an Indian-origin businessman in Fiji, has promoted tourism to India in a big way from the entire south Pacific region. He has also worked relentlessly for the protection of the interests of the Indian community in Fiji.

Ryuko Hira, is the director of the prestigious Japan-India Association. He has supported several projects for the underprivileged in India. He has also supported the translation and publication of the Mahabharata, Vedas and Upanishads.

Dr. R.U. Pawankar has focused on the furtherance of India-Japan medical collaboration for several years.

Suresh Kumar Virmani, a successful engineer, entrepreneur and businessman, is a founder member of the Indian Cultural Association in Oman. He has worked relentlessly for the welfare of the expatriate Indian community in Oman.

Pravin Jamnadas Gordhan, Finance Minister of South Africa, has distinguished himself as commissioner of the South African Revenue Service. He was a political activist who took active part in the anti-apartheid movement of that country, organising and leading student movements.

Tholisah Perumal Naidoo is a publisher, journalist and founder of the Indian Academy of South Africa in Durban. He has been promoting Indian culture in South Africa for the past 25 years.

Rajni Kanabar is a philanthropist who initiated the Tanzania Heart Babies project wherein Tanzanian children suffering from congenital heart defects are sent to India for open heart surgeries. Over 1,300 surgeries were performed in the last 27 years.



Deepak Mittal, an industrialist and financial expert, has successfully set up and operated many large state-of-the-art Indian joint ventures in Thailand. His efforts have led to expanded trade between India and Thailand.

Lenny Krishendath Saith is Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office in Trinidad & Tobago. A strong advocate of bilateral ties between India and Trinidad & Tobago, he has consistently promoted the cause of the Indian diaspora in T&T.

Dr. Azad Moopen is a physician-turned-entrepreneur who manages one of the largest healthcare networks in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Mani Lal Bhaumik is a scientist, author, educator and philanthropist, whose books and lectures at prestigious institutions have significantly contributed toward a better understanding of the cultural and spiritual heritage of India.

Consul General's book on India-UAE ties presented to Ruler of Dubai

The first copy of the coffee table book *India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship*, authored by Consul General in Dubai Venu Rajamony, was presented to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Vice President and Prime Minister and Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The book was presented on January 25 on the eve of India's 60th Republic Day, according to a press release issued by the Indian Consulate General. The release of the book comes ahead of Rajamony leaving Dubai shortly at the end of his tenure, it added.

The statement quoted Sheikh Mohammed as saying in a message: "We look upon India as our neighbours and its people as friends; we consider India a force for peace. It is an active member of the non-

aligned nations organisations and the United Nations, as well as a great economic power, not only regionally but also internationally.

"With this in mind, we are keen to maintain and enhance existing bridges of cooperation with India for the mutual benefit of both nations, so that the security and the economic stability of the Gulf region, the Indian subcontinent and the whole world can be achieved."

The 260-page book explores the ties between India and the UAE dating back to ancient times. It is filled with insights into the historic, political, cultural and business aspects of the association between the two countries.

The book is a pictorial chronicle of the great moments that have added up to the present and the reader is taken on a journey through time, where glittering vistas of ancient and contemporary narratives, rare photographs as well as facts and figures are



Consul General Rajamony (left) with Sheikh Mohammad.

juxtaposed against new developments, opportunities and fascinating insider glimpses of the stories that prominent Emiratis and leading Indian businessmen based in the UAE have to tell, according to the statement.

With messages from the UAE's rulers and interviews of senior ministers, the book is a definitive narrative of the India-UAE ties, it added. Produced and published by Indian Expressions Management Consultancy in association with Motivate Publishing, the book will be available across India and the UAE soon.

Rajamony's stint in Dubai has seen a number of community and welfare initiatives, cultural and business forums, launch of a monthly consulate news magazine *India Matters* and several other novel ventures on the part of the Consulate. The UAE is home to around 1.5 million expatriate Indians. ❖

CG CALLS ON CROWN PRINCE OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH



HH Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Ras Al-Khaimah, received Venu Rajamony, Consul General of India in Dubai on February 1, 2010. The diplomat paid a courtesy visit to Sheikh Saud to bid farewell at the end of his tenure in the UAE. The meeting reviewed ways of boosting relations between the two friendly countries. Sheikh Saud wished the outgoing Consul General success in his future mission. The Consul General gifted him a copy of his new book, *India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship*.

Exhibition of rare photographic prints of India

The Consulate General of India and Empty Quarter Fine Art Photography Gallery, in collaboration with Howard Greenberg Gallery is hosting 'Sacred Sites of India', an exhibition of rare, vintage and contemporary photographic prints of India from January 5 to February 5.

"This is an exhibition of rare and special photographs by some of the top photographers in the world on India," Consul General of India in Dubai Venu Rajamony said while inaugurating the exhibition on January 5.

"It showcases India in all its diversity and presents different aspects of the life and people of India. These pictures have not been seen by the public in UAE till date. We invite members of the Indian community as well as friends from the UAE and the international community to come and see the exhibition in large numbers," he added.

In a country as vast as India that is rich in culture, tradition and has a generosity of spirit, this remarkable exhibition brings the images from a world nearly forgotten, where the people continue to live their traditional lifestyles largely undisturbed. This fascinating journey explores a varied group of images from the late 19th century with an overview of Kolkata by the Bourne and Shepherd studio as well as images from Falkland Road, Henri Cartier Bresson, Mary Ellen Mark and Mark Riboud.

Owner of The Empty Quarter gallery, Elie Domit, expressed joy at the response the exhibition has received.

"This is the first major exhibition of photography ever to be held at The Empty Quarter, featuring vintage prints from some of the most iconic, pioneering and influential 20th century fine art pho-



The Photographers

Maragaret Bourke White was sent to India by *Life* magazine at the time of Independence and the events surrounding it. She also got to photograph Mahtama Gandhi only hours before his death on January 30, 1948.

Samuel Bourne is the most researched and highly praised colonial photographer. His works gave birth to a studio, Bourne and Shepard, that still operates in Kolkata. Bourne's photographs have what his contemporaries

describe a "luminescent quality" that exemplifies classic Raj photography.

Henri Cartier-Bresson arrived in India in 1947 at the time of its Independence. Having made inside connections through Jawaharlal Nehru, he was able to capture the essence of India's soul. He photographed Hindus in refugee camps after the Partition and, during six extended visits over a 20-year period, made astonishing images of the death and cremation of Mahatma Gandhi.

ographers, who helped shape the medium," Domit said.

"Anyone with an interest in 20th century photography will find this exhibition fas-

inating – a rare opportunity for collectors to acquire vintage prints from these modern masters, whilst lovers of the medium to enjoy seeing this rare work," he said. ❖

India's Reliance Solar Group appoints its MENA distributors

PTL Solar, experts in solar street lighting solutions and part of Green Energy LLC has been appointed as exclusive distributors for the Middle East and Africa region for Reliance Solar Group, part of Reliance Industries, the largest private sector enterprise in India.

India's Minister for New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah inaugurated the first exclusive international Reliance Showroom at the Dubai Creek Towers in Deira on January 22.

The event was also attended by Ali Bin Towaih, Executive Director of ENPARK and Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED) at TECOM Investments, and Rabindra Satpathy, President of Reliance Solar Group, as guests of honour.

Business partners, suppliers, and customers of PTL Solar, as well as a few members of a delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and media members also attended the event.

Prabish Thomas, Managing Director of PTL Solar, said: "We are proud of being selected as the exclusive Middle East and Africa distributor by Reliance Industries. This alliance is a perfect match for us as it will bring synergy to our operations and help us meet our objectives in offering the best energy solutions. We are looking forward to extending the benefits of this partnership to a wide base of stakeholders in the entire region." On his part, Ali Bin Towaih said that ENPARK's mandate was to ensure that its business partners were provided with an optimal environment and the resources to grow the green energy industry in the region.

"We are confident PTL Solar will play a crucial role in driving forward the green industry and positioning the UAE as a leading player in the global energy sector," he stated. Reliance Solar Group specialises in developing and offering products, systems and solutions ranging from solar lanterns, home lighting systems and street lighting systems to water purification systems, refrigeration systems and



Minister Abdullah with Executive Director of ENPARK Ali Bin Towaih.



Minister Abdullah with former Ambassador of India in the UAE Talmiz Ahmad at the IBPC function.

solar air conditioners – all based on solar energy.

PTL Solar is part of Green Energy, a leading solutions provider for solar and renewable energy products in Middle East and Africa.

In the course of his visit, Minister

Farooq Abdullah also attended an event organised by the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC), Dubai on January 22, where, Gauri Singh, Joint Secretary, in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy gave a presentation on 'Green Energy Opportunities'. ❖

ILA organises 7th free health camp for workers

The seventh health camp organised by the Indian Ladies Association (ILA) of Dubai, the Consulate General of India in Dubai and the Getwell Clinic on January 8 witnessed a turnout of over 500 people.

The event, held at the Consulate auditorium, was exclusively for workers and other needy people in the community who did not have medical insurance and whose income was AED2000 a month or below.

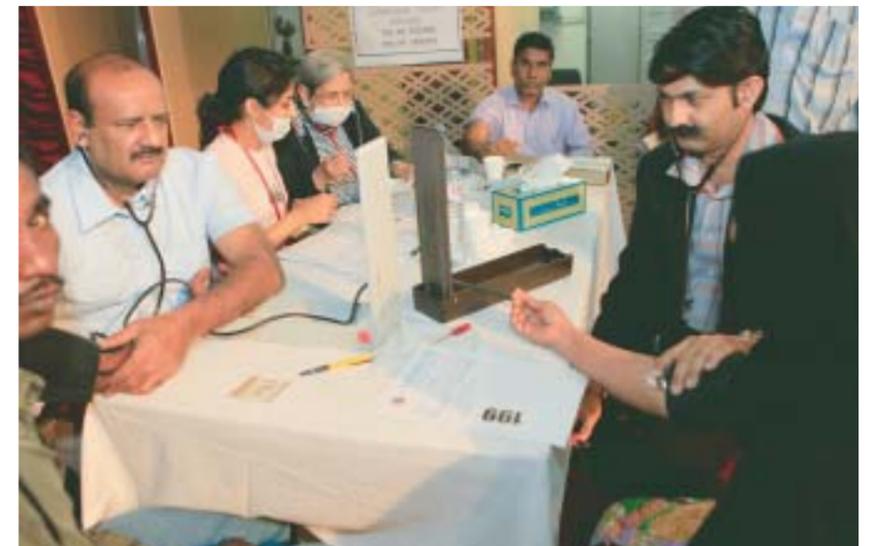
A panel of doctors, including general physicians, dermatologists, ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthopedic surgeons, dentists, gynecologists, cardiologists, and other specialists offered their services for free.

Like in previous camps, the Indian Pharmaceutical Professionals Council supplied free medicines along with the services of a team of experienced pharmacists.

The camps are organised every three months and are entirely managed by ILA volunteers.

ILA is a social and charity organisation, which has been empowering and nurturing ladies of the Indian community since 1976. It conducts programmes to educate women on important issues and plays an important role in providing a platform for women to express themselves.

It also has various clubs dedicated to reiki, cookery, gardening, photography and books. It participates in local charity and social campaigns like UAE Clean-Up Day with Emirates Environmental Group, Children of Gaza with Dubai Cares, Funfair with Al Noor Training Centre for children with special needs, and a walkathon organised by the Gulf Heart Association. ❖





PepsiCo head Indra Nooyi and Citibank CEO Vikram Pandit.

8 Indian-born CEOs in *Forbes*' list

Indians are notches above other immigrants in the United States, says *Forbes*. PepsiCo Chief Executive Indra Nooyi inevitably topped the list of what *Forbes* called "Eight Indian-Flavoured CEOs" who lead US corporations with revenues of at least \$2 billion, as the premier business magazine chronicled the rise of Indians in corporate ranks in America.

"The chief executive of PepsiCo would be prominent no matter what. The fact that the current one — Indra Nooyi — is an Indian immigrant (and female, in case you've been living under a rock) makes her all the more noteworthy," it said.

"It's not a surprise that we're seeing Indians rise in corporate ranks," *Forbes* quotes Richard Herman, co-author of a book on migrants to the United States, *Immigrant, Inc.*, as saying.

Of the featured eight, Nooyi, 53, said Herman, is part of a growing trend where US companies are being created, or led, by foreign-born individuals who bring in something special.

Vikram Pandit, CEO of Citigroup, is the other prominent native Indian in the corner office. "Prior to joining the ailing bank he was president of Morgan Stanley's investment banking, fixed income and capital markets businesses and cofounded and was

the chairman of a hedge fund, Old Lane Partners," *Forbes* noted.

Third on the list is Kenya-born Francisco D'Souza who heads Cognizant Technology Solutions, that outsources IT services for its Western world clients.

D'Souza, 40, joined the company in 1994 when it was founded and, within three years, had gone up the ranks to become director of North American operations. Next comes Shantanu Narayen, 46, at the helm at Adobe Systems. The company's flagship Internet video tool is Flash. "At least one top boss of Indian descent is plotting a growth strategy," says *Forbes* of Quest Diagnostics' head Surya Mohapatra, fifth on the list. Also featured are Dinesh Paliwal of Harman International, Jai P. Nagarkatti of Sigma-Aldrich and Abhijit Talwalkar of LSI.

Paliwal, a native of the city of the Taj Mahal, joined Harman, a sound-systems company in Stamford, Connecticut, as chief executive in 2007. Nagarkatti joined Sigma-Aldrich in 1976 as a development chemist, and after heading the company's scientific research business, was appointed COO in August 2004. Talwalkar was appointed Chief Executive of LSI of Milpitas, California, in May 2005. Earlier, he was at Intel's digital enterprise group. ❖

'Indian economy can grow at 9%'



The Indian economy could grow at 9 percent next fiscal, helped by a rise in domestic demand and higher industrial output, even as high fiscal deficit remained an area of concern, said a senior analyst with Ernst and Young.

"If we have a normal monsoon next year, we can expect the economy to grow at 9 percent. We already have a good industrial production and we expect it to be higher during 2010-11," said Ashvin Parekh, national director of Ernst and Young Financial Services.

"We also expect India's exports to rise and its industrial growth at around 10 percent by the end of this fiscal," Parekh said, agreeing with Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee that the economy can grow 8 percent this fiscal.

The predictions on India's growth were altered upward after the official data on gross domestic product showed a 7.9 percent expansion during the second quarter this fiscal, against 7-7.5 percent that was expected earlier.

There were further signs of a recovery when the country's merchandise exports grew 18.2 percent in November after as many as 13 successive months of decline since October last year. Industrial production, too, was up by a robust 10.3 percent in October.

Previously, the country's growth had slipped to 6.7 percent in the last fiscal from over 9 percent in the three preceding years. In the first quarter of the current fiscal, the growth in the country's gross domestic product was 6.1 percent.

■ IN SHORT ■

Demand for protein foods set to grow, says Minister

The Government has called upon agricultural scientists to increase the production of protein foods to prevent an increase in their prices owing to demands of an increasingly calorie-conscious population. "If production of vegetables, pulses, milk, meat and staples do not catch up with the needs of a young and successful population, price pressure will hurt the poor, and the low-income group," said Minister of State for Agriculture K.V. Thomas.

Foreseeing a stabilised population by 2050 in the country, the Minister said: "The demand for protein foods is going to grow exponentially."

Core industries grew 5.6% in November

Key sectors of the economy grew 5.6 percent in November, according to Commerce Minister Anand Sharma. "The six-core index registered a growth of 5.3 percent in November 2009 as compared to 0.8 percent in the previous year," said Sharma while unveiling a draft of the comprehensive policy on FDI. The month saw steel production increasing 11.7 percent, cement 9 percent, coal 3.3 percent, petroleum refinery products 4.9 percent and electricity generation by 1.8 percent.

Stimulus likely to stay for now, says Pranab

The Government is unlikely to withdraw the stimulus packages now as domestic firms would be hit in case the global economy collapses, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said. "Exiting from the stimulus packages now may not be the correct approach because if the world economy collapses, the depression would be deeper. I am not hinting at anything," Mukherjee said. He, however, said the stimulus packages would widen the fiscal deficit.

Indian IT market to revive on recovery signs

Amid signs of economic recovery, the Indian IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS) market is projected to grow by 15 percent in 2010 as against a modest growth of 5.4 percent in 2009, a report by market intelligence firm IDC (International Data Corporation) India said on December 31.

"As the economy recovers, both consumers and enterprises will demand services and solutions that allow them to do more with less. The structural changes undertaken in 2009 will propel the domestic IT-ITeS market to grow in 2010," IDC India Country Manager Kapil Dev Singh said. The changes were effected by the resilient IT industry to overcome the impact of economic slowdown and accelerate the industry transformation towards a new market order.

The domestic IT-ITeS market in 2010 is projected to be at Rs. 120,666 crore (Rs. 1206.66 billion), a growth of 15 percent over the growth of 5.4 percent in 2009 at Rs. 104,906 crore (Rs. 1,049 billion).

The combined market size was Rs. 99,654 crore (Rs. 996.54 billion) in 2008.



The domestic IT-ITeS market in 2010 is projected to be at Rs.1206.66 billion.

"On stand-alone basis, the domestic IT market is expected to grow by 13 percent in 2010 to Rs. 107,655 crore (Rs. 1076.55 billion/Rs.1.08 trillion), while the ITeS market will grow by 35 percent to Rs. 13,011 crore (Rs. 130 billion) in the New Year," the report pointed out.

The report, titled 'India Domestic ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Market Top 10 predictions 2010', said the new phase of growth and development was evolving along trends that were different from the previous growth phase during 2003-08. ❖

'8,000-km road construction contracts this fiscal'

The Central government will bid out 8,000 km of road construction contracts in the current fiscal, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said on December 22.

"In comparison, the Government bid out 2,000 km of road construction contracts during the last three years," Ahluwalia told a CII-organised national conference on leadership.

Speaking via video conferencing from New Delhi, Ahluwalia said he was not "dissatisfied" with the pick-up in infrastructure which saw larger government funding because of the economic downturn.

He said the success of the infrastructure



investment made by the government could be judged if the position was reviewed 18 months from now. Giving an outline of the thrust in the government's economic policy,

Ahluwalia said: "We want to create an environment where competitive forces remain strong and ensure economy becomes open."

The government would also ensure there was no unfair competition and create infrastructure by taking help of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Recalling that the 11th Five-Year Plan had envisaged that 30 percent of the infrastructure spending should be through the PPP, he said: "There should be an increase in infrastructure spending including in expanding rural infrastructure." ❖

With two million visitors, the 10th Auto Expo in New Delhi emerged as the largest among such events, even surpassing New York and Shanghai

India's emergence as a major market and a hub for the global auto industry was reinforced at this year's Auto Expo that concluded on January 11 in New Delhi, which saw the launch of an unprecedented 72 vehicles in virtually every segment by domestic and multinational companies.

In tune with the global concern for the environment, 'clean and green' was clearly the flavour of the seven-day event where hybrids and battery powered vehicles were showcased in equal measure along with those that run on conventional fuels.

According to the organisers, Auto Expo 2010 also emerged as among the largest such shows even surpassing those at New York and Shanghai, as it managed to attract as many as two million visitors.

The Expo had about 125,000 square metres of exhibition space and about two million visitors, while Shanghai drew 600,000 visitors and New York 1.2 million. Organisers said this was the largest such auto expo.

This apart, 2,100 companies from 30 countries participated in the show with large contingents from Germany, the United States, South Korea, Japan and China.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jyotiraditya Scindia said the number of new models launched at the Expo underlined the robust recovery of the Indian auto market and its growing stature in the world.

"The Government aims to give full support to the automotive small and medium scale enterprises, and particularly to technology upgrade. The nation is fast becoming a manufacturing hub for passenger cars, especially small cars," he said. ❖

(From clockwise) Ian Callum, chief designer of Jaguar, with Tata group Chairman Ratan Tata unveiling the Jaguar-XJ car at the 10th Auto Expo; actor Shah Rukh Khan unveils the Hyundai i10 electric car; Skoda's newly-launched Yeti SUV; A newly-launched Volkswagen Polo car; and Honda's new small concept car at the Auto Expo.

India, the global auto hub



Poverty declined after reforms: PM

The economic reforms have helped in reducing poverty in India, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said on December 27, but admitted a lot more needed to be done as poverty remained a "major challenge".

"There is no doubt in my view that poverty remains a major challenge. Our poor are still too poor and we need to do much more to improve their standard of living," he said, in his address at the 92nd annual conference of the Indian Economic Association in Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

"The economy has to grow fast enough to create new job opportunities at a rate faster than the growth of labour force," he said, supporting high growth rate for reduction of poverty and stressing on "inclusive growth" as brought out in the 11th Five-Year Plan.

For inclusive growth, the Prime Minister suggested that the country must pay greater attention to sectors like education, health and rural development.

"We need to pay greater attention to education, healthcare and rural development focusing particularly on the needs of the poor – scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities," he said, urging efficient and economic use of scarce natural resources like land and water.

"Special attention has to be paid in increasing agricultural productivity-partic-



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressing the 92nd Annual Conference of Indian Economic Association (IEA) in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, on December 27.

ularly of small and marginal farmers," he added. The Prime Minister, however, denied that the economic reforms had adversely affected the poor. "There is no evidence that the new economic policies have had an adverse effect on the poor," he said.

"It is true that the rate of decline has not been as it should have been," he said adding that the economic reforms have

rather helped in bringing down the number of people living below poverty line.

"Ideally, facts are quite clear. The percentage (of people) below poverty line has not increased. In fact, the population below poverty line has declined after economic reforms, at least at the same rate as it was before... Greater emphasis has to be laid on reforms in governance to reduce the scope for corruption," he added. ❖

Germany looks at business cooperation with Kerala

Germany wants to work in sectors such as roads and infrastructure development in Kerala, German Ambassador in India Thomas Matussek said on December 29.

"Germany is keen to cooperate with Kerala in the areas of roads, infrastructure development, ports, urban planning and alternate energy besides education and we are really keen to make this happen," said Matussek.

The Ambassador, who invited Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan to visit Germany and also met Transport Minister Jose Thettayil, said he was not looking at



Thomas Matussek.

German behemoths such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz or Siemens setting up shop in the state.

"Those big guys know how to handle their affairs. Instead, I want the small and medium enterprises to come over to Kerala for business and there are many areas this can be done. The best way forward is through the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce," he said.

Another area of interest, he said, was

the education sector, and added that the German state of Bavaria was keen to cooperate with stakeholders in Kerala.

Matussek was accompanied by German Consul General Rolf Saligman, who oversees issues related to Karnataka and Kerala. The German team also visited the Technopark IT campus in Thiruvananthapuram.

"There are a good number of doctors and nurses from here in Germany and ours is an ageing society. There are immense job opportunities in the medical field there," said Matussek, adding that his son was baptised by a priest from Kerala.



Exports from MSMEs on the rise: CII

Exports from micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are on the rise despite the rising cost of raw materials and stiff global competition, says the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

According to the CII MSME Outlook Survey on Exports, 42 percent of respondents said their exports rose over the past six months, 49 percent saw a decline while there was no change for the remaining 9 percent.

The principal findings of the survey were based on responses from a broad spectrum of industry groups and MSME members of CII. India's exports during November rose to 18.2 percent after 13 successive months of decline since October last year. Industrial production, too, was up by a robust 10.3 percent in October.

The CII survey was undertaken to analyse the actual export performance of the MSMEs during the first half of 2009-10 to understand the future export prospects during the second half.

"This is besides identifying key factors that are limiting exports, and the emerging export markets for the Indian MSMEs," CII said in a statement.

The survey said 50 percent of respondents expected an increase in exports between October 2009 and March 2010, 15 percent foresaw no change, while 35 percent believed their volumes would decline.

The key limiting factors for export orders over the next six months for MSMEs are rising cost of raw material, international competition, price competitiveness and delay in payments, CII said.

'The decade that was India's'

Calling it 'The Decade That Was India's', a leading US daily says India's ability to make the success of the last 10 years the norm across regions and industries, "could well pave the way for an Indian century".

"Nobody knew what would happen when 1999 ended. Would computer systems crash and paralyse machines, power lines, lights, life as we know it?" the *Wall Street Journal* said recalling how the world turned to India to take on the dreaded Y2K bug.

"This was the decade that defined India – and India defined. Think back to the mid-1990s, as software services entrepreneurs assure me, and Americans didn't know India at all," the leading daily said. "Ten years later, the world is in panic mode again – and some economists think India will come to the rescue yet again," it added.

"This time, it's from the evolution of that nascent outsourcing model into the engine of a robust global player that can do more than serve US companies; Indians can buy their products, too," the *Journal* said noting, "The bookends of this decade



are significant for India and its place in the new economic order."

"The backlash against outsourcing remains a very real threat, intensifying amid 10 percent unemployment in the US," it said. "But outsourcing – and the idea that companies must operate cheaply, efficiently, globally – has come to be an accepted, inescapable reality."

"A plurality went as far as to say the US will be surpassed by China in 20 years as the world's top power."

"India can hardly be far behind, given its population projected to exceed China and its democratic form of government," the *Journal* said, noting, "That would have been unthinkable in 1999." ❖

Rs. 10 tn investment in food processing by 2015: Minister

The central government plans an investment of Rs. 1 lakh crore (Rs. 10 trillion), including from the private sector, in the food processing sector by 2015, union Food Processing Minister Subodh Kant Sahai has said.

"We have an investment plan of Rs.1 lakh crore by 2015. We are looking at it to happen through private participation," he said on the sidelines of a business summit on the Northeast in Kolkata.

In the last five years, food processing in India has grown nearly 10 per cent, he said, adding it aims to register a growth of around 20 percent by 2015.

Sahai said his Ministry was concerned about the Goods and Services Tax (GST). "Food cannot be taxed. Ours is the only



In the last five years, food processing in India has grown nearly 10 per cent.

Ministry to have brought down food related taxes to negligible level. With the GST coming up, our effort will be to push the food taxes in 0-4 percent band and restrict it there," the Minister added.

He also urged the states to formulate a food processing industry policy to further strengthen the activities within the sector. ❖

A veritable paradise for both domestic and international tourists, Goa dances to the tune of the mandos, and sways to the rhythm of the fisherman's oar and the soothing sounds of heaving and crashing sea waves.

Palm trees, white-sand beaches, colourful festivals, a vibrant nightlife, exotic seafood and magnificent architecture – it is home to the happy-go-lucky Goan. Often called 'The Rome of the East', it is where the Portuguese blended with India, giving birth to the colourful and lively Goan culture. Goa was a Portuguese colony for nearly 450 years.

A KALEIDOSCOPE

Goa is a kaleidoscope of different religions, ethnic groups, races and faiths but every Goan celebrates the *joy de vivre* of love and harmony. They are also at once simple and flamboyant.

Hindus form nearly 65 percent of Goa's population, Christians 26 percent, and Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains form the rest (2001 census). Tourism is Goa's lifeline and the bulwark of its economy.

Konkani in the Devnagari script is the sole official language of Goa while Marathi is also widely used for official purposes. The other languages spoken by Goans are English, Hindi and Portuguese.

The weather in Goa is pleasant but is hot and humid during summer. Goa looks exquisite when the first showers of the southwest monsoon swamp the hot sands of Goa. Soon it is awash in green. Monsoon arrives here in early June and lasts till September.

BEACH PARADISE

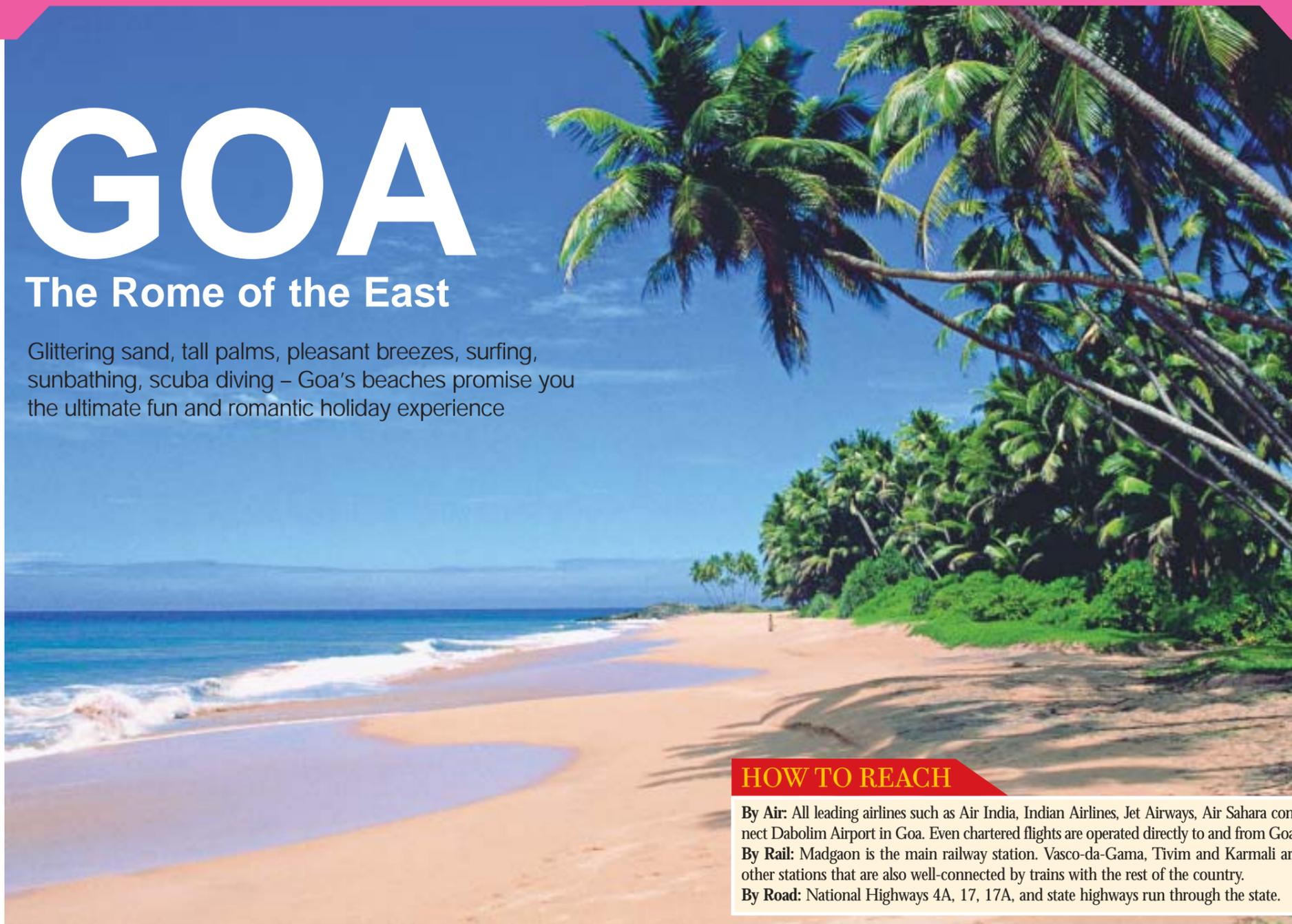
Think beaches, think Goa... Glittering sands, tall palms, pleasant breezes, surfing, sunbathing, scuba diving – Goa's beaches promise you the ultimate fun and romantic holiday experience. Every beach is worth a visit.

Some of the most popular beaches here are Anjuna, Agonda, Arambol, Baga, Benaulim, Bogmalo, Calangute, Candolim, Cavelossim, Colva, Dona Paula, Majorda, Miramar, Palolem and Vagator.

GOA

The Rome of the East

Glittering sand, tall palms, pleasant breezes, surfing, sunbathing, scuba diving – Goa's beaches promise you the ultimate fun and romantic holiday experience



HOW TO REACH

By Air: All leading airlines such as Air India, Indian Airlines, Jet Airways, Air Sahara connect Dabolim Airport in Goa. Even chartered flights are operated directly to and from Goa.

By Rail: Madgaon is the main railway station. Vasco-da-Gama, Tivim and Karmali are other stations that are also well-connected by trains with the rest of the country.

By Road: National Highways 4A, 17, 17A, and state highways run through the state.



ANJUNA BEACH

Often known as 'Goa's Freak Capital of the World', it is nearly 18 km from Panjim, the capital of Goa. The beach boasts of the amazing Albuquerque Mansion. Built in 1920, it has octagonal towers and Mangalore-tiled roofs.

ARAMBOL BEACH

Arambol, a secluded beach, is around 50 km from Panjim. Nearby, there is also a freshwater lake fed by hot spring water. The cliffs near the beaches make the place a great adventure sports spot making para-gliding possible. You can also enjoy

dolphin sighting while having a fun boat trip.

CALANGUTE BEACH

Nearly 16 km from the capital, Calangute, known as the 'Queen of Beaches', is Goa's most popular resort. A lively nightlife, bars, restaurants, cafes, parasailing, water skiing, surfing, swimming and parties make Calangute a great hangout.

ARCHITECTURE

Goan architecture is fabulous. The ancient walls and curves of the forts, man-

sions and churches tell stories of the centuries-old Portuguese era. The beauty of the Goan architecture lies in the fusion of Indian, Portuguese and Islamic traditions.

CHURCHES

Goa boasts some of India's most gorgeous churches. Some of them are the Church of Mary Immaculate Conception, Reis Magos Church, Se Cathedral, St. Anne Church, Church of St. Augustine, St. Cajetan Church, Church of St. Francis and St. Paul Church.

BASILICA OF BOM JESUS



A UNESCO World Heritage Site and about 10 km from Panjim, the church is home to the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, the co-founder of the Society of Jesus. The church is a classic example of Baroque architecture, which originated in late 16th century Italy. The church was consecrated in 1605.

SE CATHEDRAL CHURCH

Standing tall at 115 feet, its walls painted in white, it's Old Goa's most sparkling adornment. It was under Afonso de Albuquerque that Portugal conquered Goa in 1510. Se Cathedral was built to commemorate the Portuguese victory and was consecrated in 1640. Built in the Portuguese-Gothic style, it is one of the largest churches in Asia.

TEMPLES

Goa's temples have also drawn extensively on Portuguese architecture, though altered or reconstructed after 1961. Temples like Mangueshi Temple, Mahalasa Temple, Shanta Durga Temple and Ananta Temple are among the most frequently visited and popular ones. ❖



This magazine will accept contributions from readers in the form of Q&As, factoids, quiz news, announcements of upcoming quiz events and also photographs. You can write in to indiqtive@gmail.com.

1. Which premier annual Indian football tournament that started in 1891 was last played in the 2000-01 season?
2. Which stock exchange of India was incorporated in 1992 after being promoted by leading financial institutions of the country?
3. Which of the seven islands that originally formed the city of Mumbai was known as Candil during the time of Portuguese rule?
4. Nagendra Singh, who served as the chief election commissioner of India in 1972-73, also served as the president of which international body from 1985 to 1988?
5. The upper reaches of the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttarkashi, covering an area of 472.08 sq km, was notified as a national park to protect which endangered species of animal?
6. Name this Bollywood actress who made her movie debut in the 1997 Tamil film *Iruvar*, directed by Mani Ratnam, and tasted her first major commercial success in another Tamil film *Jean* the following year.
7. The name of which team of the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament reflects the name of the newspaper that owns it?
8. In 1960, which well-known litterateur became the first person to win the Sahitya Akademi Award for English?
9. Which well-known tourist attraction in Lucknow was built by Muhammad Ali Shah, the third Nawab of Avadh, to serve as his own mausoleum?
10. Which university was first established in Aligarh in 1920,

shifted to Karol Bagh in Delhi in 1925 and upgraded to a central university in 1988?

11. Founded by eminent freedom fighter Dr. Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya, this bank, now a nationalised one, commenced business on November 28, 1923, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 100,000. Name it.
12. Can you identify the premier Indian government autonomous apex organisation, the logo of which is shown here?



THE 13TH QUESTION

In Beating The Retreat, the closing ceremony of India's Republic Day celebrations, drummers play to the chime of distant bells a famous 19th century hymn composed by English organist and church musician William H. Monk that is said to have been a favourite of Mahatma Gandhi. Can you name the hymn?

ANSWERS

1. Rovers Cup. 2. The National Stock Exchange of India. 3. Colaba. 4. The International Court of Justice. 5. The snow leopard. 6. Aishwarya Rai (now Aishwarya Rai Bachchan). 7. Deccan Chargers, owned by The Deccan Chronicle. 8. R.K. Narayan (for his novel *The Guide*). 9. Chhota Imambara. 10. Jamia Millia Islamia. 11. Andhra Bank. 12. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research or ICAR. The 13th Question: Abide With Me.

TOURIST VISA ON ARRIVAL FOR NATIONALS OF FIVE COUNTRIES

The Government of India has introduced 'Tourist Visa on Arrival' for citizens of five countries – Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Singapore – with effect from January 1, 2010. The visa on arrival will be issued only at Delhi Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata airports and will have a maximum validity of 30 days with single entry. The following terms and conditions will apply for such categories of visas:



Ministry of Home Affairs:

The tourist visa on arrival may be converted to X (entry) visa if a foreigner who has come to India married an Indian national during the validity of his/her tourist visa on arrival. Proper documents including a copy of registered marriage certificate will be required for this.

- The sole purpose of visiting India on tourist visa on arrival should be for recreation, sight seeing, casual visit, visit to meet friends or relatives, and no other purpose or activity.
- The applicant does not have a residence or occupation in India.
- The applicant's passport has minimum six months' validity and a re-entry permit, if that is required under the law of the country of the nationality of the applicant.
- The applicant should be of assured financial standing (the production of return ticket and availability of sufficient money to spend during his stay in India).



- The applicant is not a persona non-grata to the Government of India.
- The citizens from the above named countries who want to come to India for longer duration will be granted visa by the Indian missions concerned.
- The facility shall not be available to citizens of above countries (Finland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Singapore) if either of his/her parents or

grand parents (paternal or maternal) was born in and was permanently resident in Pakistan. Such persons can visit India after obtaining appropriate visas from the Indian missions concerned.

- The tourist visa on arrival can neither be extended nor converted to any other kind of visa during applicant's stay in India except in the following circumstances with the prior approval of the

- Tourist visa on arrival of foreigners who fall ill after their entry into India and require specialised medical treatment may be converted to medical visa. In such cases, tourist visa on arrival of the attendant may also be converted into medical attendant (MEDX) after submission of medical certificate from government/government recognized hospitals.
- A fee of US\$60 or equivalent amount in Indian rupees per passenger, including children, will be charged from each applicant for grant of a tourist visa on arrival.
- Tourist visa on arrival shall be allowed for a maximum of two times in a calendar year to a foreigner with a minimum gap of two months between each visit.
- This facility will not be applicable to holders of diplomatic/official passports.

The form for applying for this facility can be downloaded from the website www.cgidubai.com.

Consul General meets Crown Prince of Dubai



Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, received Consul General of India in Dubai Venu Rajamony for a farewell call on January 17. Consul General thanked Sheikh Hamdan for the patronage extended by the Rulers and Government of the UAE to the people of India living in Dubai and for the personal support and cooperation extended to him in his work as CG. Rajamony invited Sheikh Hamdan to visit India and said such a visit will take India-UAE relations to greater heights. The Crown Prince wished the Consul General the very best for his future career and expressed appreciation for all that he has done to strengthen India-UAE relations. Rajamony is returning to India on February 12 on completion of his three-year tenure in Dubai. He will be joining the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on a new assignment.

Consulate General of India

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Email: cgidubai@cgidubai.com

CONSULATE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

+971 50 9433111 (For women/housemaids in distress and counseling for stress and depression)

+971 50 7347676 (For death formalities on holidays and after office hours)

600 522229 (Passport and Visa Services Centre)

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and on Me Ranjani Telegu Radio 1152 AM @ 5pm**