

CONNECTING INDIA WITH ITS DIASPORA



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PRAVASI BHARATIYA

APRIL 2012 | VOL 5 | ISSUE 4

Aiming for the skies

In April, India's space and missile scientists made the nation proud with the twin launches of Risat-1 and Agni-V ballistic missile. A chronicle of the journey behind these successes

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Printed and Published by
N. Simte on behalf of the
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
Akbar Bhavan, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi — 110021
Website: <http://moia.gov.in>
www.overseasindian.in

Pravasi Bharatiya is a monthly publication. The views expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA). All rights reserved. No part of this journal may be produced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the permission of MOIA.

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Designed and produced by *IANS*
(www.ianspublishing.com) on behalf of
the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Printed at
Anit Printers
1811, Gyani Bazar,
Opp. D-56 N.D.S.E Part -1,
Kotla Mubarkpur,
New Delhi -110003



प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्रालय
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
www.overseasindian.in

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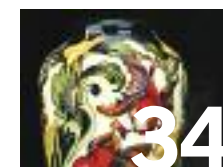
FOOD FOR LIFE

'No secrets in the kitchen' is the mantra of celebrity chef Vikas Khanna whose signature dish *gobi ka pakoda* was served to none other than US President Barack Obama



NOT JUST A BHUJIA STORY

Bikaner, one of the oldest Rajput fiefdoms, has transformed itself without compromising on its old-world sensitivities, says Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner



NEW-AGE COLLECTORS

From Wedgwood cutlery to Moorcroft glass sculptures, high-end 'interior art' from Europe and the US is finding a niche market in India



DESTINATION AUSTRALIA

Britain's loss is Australia's gain. UK's stringent visa rules are driving more and more Indian students Down Under

CLEAN ENERGY: LEAP FOR INDIA



INDIA HAS taken a leap in the clean energy race with a 54 percent increase in investments in 2011, vaulting it from 10th to sixth place in the G-20 in just one year, according to a new study.

The wind sector led the way, attracting \$4.6 billion out of a total \$10.2 billion investment in India and spurring deployment of 2.8 GW during the year, a 38 percent increase in wind generating capacity, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts.

“On a number of measures, India has been one of the top performing clean energy economies in the 21st century, registering the fifth-highest five-year rate of investment growth and eighth-highest in installed renewable energy capacity,” said Phyllis Cuttino, director of Pew’s Clean Energy Programme.

“The country holds great potential in the Asia/Oceania region and will continue to be a top destination for private investment this year,” she said.

India’s ‘National Solar Mission’, with a goal of 20 GW of solar power installed by 2020, helped drive the seven-fold jump in solar energy investments, to \$4.2 billion.

‘INDIA TO BECOME THIRD LARGEST AVIATION MARKET’



INDIA IS LIKELY to become the third-largest aviation market in the world from its current position as traffic volumes grow exponentially, a top official said recently.

“The growth of civil aviation is likely to

push India from ninth to third position in the world in terms of volume of traffic, necessitating a very strong security system,” said Gurjot Singh Malhi, Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. “The bureau has endeavoured to help equip stakeholders responsible for aviation security in the country with cutting-edge technology, skill enhancement of security personnel, training in use of advanced technology and acquisition of security equipment,” he said.

The civil aviation sector had grown at 18.5 percent in the last seven years.

‘INDIAN OIL INVESTMENTS IN BOTH SUDANS SAFE’



BOTH SUDAN and South Sudan have assured India that its \$2.5 billion investments in the oil industry spanning the trans-national border are safe and will not be affected by the simmering dispute over oil revenues between the two countries.

This was conveyed to Amarendra Khatua, India’s special envoy on Sudan and additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, when he met top ministers and officials in Khartoum and Juba recently.

ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the overseas arm of India’s state-owned oil major, had investments worth \$2.5 billion in petroleum exploration and production in undivided Sudan as part of the Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Co., in which it owns a 25 percent stake. The conflict between the two Sudans has affected OVL’s commitment to supply 12,000 barrels of oil per day to Sudan, causing a loss of over \$8 million.

NOW EXPLORE STARS IN THE US, FROM INDIAN TERRITORY!

STUDENTS FROM nearly 80 Delhi schools would soon get an opportunity to explore the night skies in the United States while sitting in India using an Internet telescope through a project in collaboration with the International Astronomical Search Collaboration.

Students, sitting at their desks in India, will remotely control telescopes to see and explore the night sky visible in the U.S. and take high quality pictures of celestial objects such as asteroids, galaxies, nebulae and clusters.

The international space science project — ‘Internet Telescope’ — is brought to India by SPACE (Science Popularisation Association of Communicators & Educators), an organisation working for spreading awareness about astronomy in youngsters.

Internet Telescope enables school stu-

dents to control and monitor 10 inch and 16 inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes located at the Ironwood North Observatory, while sitting in New Delhi.

“It is the first time that such a project has been brought to India on a large scale. Selected students will get an opportunity to be trained and participate in this exciting real science project,” said C.B. Devgun from SPACE.



NEED FOR INDIAN DOMESTIC HELPS ABROAD: RAVI

THERE IS demand for Indian workers of various skill-sets such as housemaids and home nurses abroad, including in the Gulf countries, Malaysia, Singapore and in some European nations, Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi has said.

Replying to questions in the Lok Sabha, Ravi said the recruitment of home nurses with educational qualification above Class 10, and also those migrating to Emigration Clearance Not Required (ECNR) countries, is not regulated under the Emigration Act, 1983. “As such, no data is available in this regard with the ministry,” Ravi said.

He also noted that the government policy was to facilitate orderly and legal emigration of Indian workers including women; discourage illegal and irregular migration; and ensure the protection and welfare of emigrants in accordance with the Emigration Act and rules made for Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) passport-holders’ emigration to 17 ECR-notified countries.

KERALA AD WINS AWARD IN PRAGUE



THE KERALA Tourism advertisement campaign ‘Your Moment is Waiting’ has won the bronze medal at the prestigious Prague International Advertising Festival

(PIAF) in the category of ‘State as an Advertiser’. “This is an unprecedented honour for us. It is a recognition of the hard work put in by the Kerala Tourism in managing the Brand Kerala and devising effective marketing strategies,” said Kerala Tourism Minister A.P. Anil Kumar.

The other big names, which shared the podium with Kerala Tourism, included McDonald’s Germany, Sony Pictures, Heineken and Lego. The PIAF is an exclusive event in the global advertising calendar.

WESTMINSTER UNIVERSITY TO STRENGTHEN INDIA TIES



BRITAIN-BASED University of Westminster has signed a memorandum of understanding with Mumbai’s HR College of Commerce and Economics to expand its Indian scholarship programme, officials said.

“India has historically been an important partner for the University of Westminster, through students who have come to learn with us, academics who have shared their expertise, and as a partner for re-

search,” said Myszk Guzowska, University of Westminster Pro Vice-Chancellor, announcing its new Indian presence.

The University also announced its new partnership with the Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi.

“It is our goal to strengthen these existing ties into long-term, sustainable and mutually-beneficial relationships for the university and for India,” Guzowska added.

A FIRST, HERE COMES BENGALURU FINANCIAL CITY



FINANCE MINISTER Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone for the country’s first financial city, being built by the state-run IFCI Infrastructure Development Ltd. (IIDL) at Hardware Park, near the international airport at Bagalur, about 30 kms from Bengaluru.

“We are developing India’s first financial city as a premium urban infrastructure in association with

leading banks and institutions on 50 acres of land, provided by the Karnataka government,” IFCI chief executive and IIDL chairman Atul Kumar Rai said on the occasion.

The ambitious project is scheduled to be completed in three years. The layout of the financial city is based on the Zen geomancy concept, with effective circulation and activity patterns.



UAE TO SET UP CONSULATE IN KERALA

THE UNITED Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to set up its Kerala Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram, Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed has said.

“The decision to set up the Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram is because of the rule that Consulates can be set up only in state capitals. There are certain rules and

guidelines and they have to be adhered to,” Ahamed told *IANS*.

The minister said the Consulate would start functioning in a few months.

The news about the setting up of the Consulate was announced last July when UAE’s Ambassador to India Mohamed Sultan Abdalla Al Owais met Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy.

The new Consulate will help people of the state who want to go to the UAE for work.

Currently, they have to get their documents certified by the UAE Embassy and Consulate in New Delhi and Mumbai, respectively.

The new consulate is also expected to enhance trade between Kerala and the UAE.

More than a million people from the state live and work in the UAE, says a study by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

INDIA ANNOUNCES \$50 MN CREDIT FOR SEYCHELLES

NOTING THAT India would always be a “trusted partner” of Seychelles”, President Pratibha Patil announced a \$50 million line of credit and \$25 million grant for the Indian Ocean archipelago.

“India will always be a trusted development partner of Seychelles,” Patil said in a press statement after talks with her Sey-



chelles counterpart James Alix Michel in Mahe recently.

Expressing satisfaction over the present state of their economic-commercial ties, the two countries agreed that considerable opportunities still exist for further expansion, particularly in the areas of trade and economic cooperation.

GUJARAT KIDS ON GANDHI MISSION



SIXTEEN CHILDREN from the slums of Ahmedabad in Gujarat will tour the United States in June to spread Mahatma Gandhi’s message of “oneness” through a 90 minute dance-drama.

Titled ‘Ekatva’ (Oneness), the show,

sharing a “message of love, inspiration, and a call to action: to push the world closer to oneness and peace,” will be staged in Chicago, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Austin, Atlanta and New Jersey.

‘Ekatva’ was inspired by a similar project called ‘Ekta’ (Unity), which was created in 2000 by Manav Sadhna, a nonprofit based at the Mahatma Gandhi Ashram, and teachers from the Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, the organisers said.

“It sounds like a large task for small people — but I have learned every day in working with these children that they are not ‘small’ in any way — they are capable of so much,” said ‘Ekatva’ director Nimesh Patel, a Wharton Business School graduate and former hip-hop artist.

FIRST TAGORE AWARD FOR RAVI SHANKAR

CLASSICAL SITAR maestro Ravi Shankar has been awarded the first Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony by a jury chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

The National Implementation Committee for Tagore’s anniversary celebrations, chaired by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, said he is the first recipient of the Tagore Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cultural harmony.

The award comprises ₹1 crore in cash, a citation in a scroll, a plaque and an “exquisite carved handicraft or handloom memento”, the committee said.

BIG OZ DOLLARS TO WOO INDIAN TOURISTS



BUOYED BY the number of Indian tourists flocking to Australia, an influential tourism promotional body has asked the Australian government to invest \$1 billion to attract more visitors from India and

other Asian countries in the next decade.

Besides India, the Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) has also urged the federal government to focus on Australia’s top visitor resource country China and other Asian countries.

“The burgeoning middle class in Asia will continue to provide potential visitors and their increasing buying power makes them a key market for Australian goods and services, including food and wine, education, health and technology,” says the forum’s report, titled ‘Australia in the Asian Century.’

According to a TTF projection, the Asian middle class could rise from 500

million people in 2009 to 3.2 billion in 2030.

The TTF and other tourism promotion bodies Down Under have reasons to focus on China, India and other Asian countries as there has been an increase of 40 percent in the number of Asian visitors compared to 1999. The growth in export earnings from non-Asian source markets, on the other hand, went up by only 2 percent over the same period.

In the last three years, India has jumped from the 11th position to seventh as the source country of visitors to Australia. The increase looks even more impressive if analysed on percentage basis (315 percent).

WATER: KABUL SEEKS INDIAN HELP



WITH LONG YEARS of conflict reducing the area under irrigation, Afghanistan is looking for assistance from India and other “friendly countries” in building its water infrastructure and management, said Energy

and Water Minister Alhaj M. Ismail.

Ismail, who met Indian Water Resources Minister Pawan Bansal during his visit in April, said Afghanistan wanted India to help it build capacities in the water sector, including training of technical staff.

“Our expectation from India is to build capacity of staff...helping (in) management of water resources in the country,” Ismail said. The minister added that building of water infrastructure requires “enormous effort” due to 30 years of “destruction (war)” in Afghanistan.

“Not only India, other friendly countries could also help us,” he said.

US PUSH FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES



THE UNITED States is working with India to flesh out an initiative to set up hundreds of community colleges in India on the American pattern, according to State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland. “Well, obviously, we support this initiative,” she replied when asked about

the visit of education ministers from several Indian states to explore the possibility of opening such publicly funded two-year institutions that primarily attract students from the local community.

The State Department, Nuland said, has “been working with the Indian side to flesh out the initiative” that was agreed upon between President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Asked if the Indian degrees are accepted in the U.S., she said that was on a case-by-case issue depending upon where students graduate from and where they are looking to get accredited from.

OZ COMMITS NSG SUPPORT TO INDIA

CITING INDIA’S “very good” non-proliferation track record, Australia has committed to support its membership in international atomic export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

“In principle, we would look at India’s application (for the NSG) very favourably,” Australian High Commissioner Peter Varghese said in New Delhi. “India has a very good track record of non-proliferation. We are entirely comfortable with NSG exemption to India,” he added.

Varghese was replying to questions after delivering a talk on ‘Australia-India Strategic Partnership in an Asian Century’ at Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank.

“If India is able to demonstrate that it can comply with rules and regulations of the systems in place to manage effective systems of export control... If India is able to do that, I don’t see any reason why India ought not be admitted to all of those groups,” Varghese said about the four blocs — the NSG, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group. He said Australia would like to see India as a part of the non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

FLIGHT TO GLORY

In April, India's space and missile scientists made the nation proud with the twin launches of the all-weather Radar Imaging Satellite (Risat-1) and the 5,000-km range Agni-V ballistic missile.

N.C. Bipindra chronicles the story behind these successes

Agni-V being launched from Wheeler Island off the Odisha coast.

April 2012 will go down in India's history as a milestone month when the nation's scientific community touched the skies with glory, literally. It was in this month that India's space and missile scientists made the nation proud with the twin successful launches of its all-weather Radar Imaging Satellite (Risat-1), that can be put to both civilian and military use, and the 5,000-km long-range Agni-V ballistic missile that can reach targets deep inside China's northern parts and the whole of Pakistan. Come, be part of the Indian space Odyssey mission:

RISAT-1

The indigenously made Risat-1 was launched from the spaceport of Shriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, some 80 km from Chennai, on April 26. This one act propelled India into a select group of nations like the U.S., Canada, and some European countries having such technology.

The rocket that put the 1,858-kg Risat-1 in orbit is the 44.5-metre tall and 321-tonne heavy Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C19 (PSLV-C19) that had a one-way ticket to soar into the skies.

Risat-1 is the heaviest luggage so far ferried by a PSLV since 1993, delivering it into a polar circular orbit at a 480-km altitude.

"PSLV-C19 mission is a grand success. This is the 20th successive successful flight of PSLV. India's first radar imaging satellite was injected precisely into orbit," Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Radhakrishnan said after the launch. "It is a 30-year effort," he added.

Remote-sensing satellites send back pictures and other data. India has the largest constellation of remote-sensing satellites in the world, providing imagery in a variety of spatial resolutions, from more than a metre ranging up to 500 metres, and is a major player in vending such data globally.

With 11 remote sensing/earth observation satellites orbiting in space, India is a world leader in the remote sensing data market. The 11 satellites are TES, Resourcesat-1, Cartosat-1, 2, 2A and 2B, IMS-1, Risat-2, Oceansat-2, Resourcesat-2 and Megha-Tropiques. Risat-1's synthetic aperture radar (SAR) can acquire data in C-band and would orbit the earth 14 times a day.

In 2009, ISRO had launched 300-kg Risat-2 with an Israeli-built SAR enabling earth observation in all-weather, day and

53
satellites PSLV has
successfully launched
till date

27
foreign satellites India
has placed in orbit till
date

11
remote sensing/ earth
observation satellites
India has put in orbit



ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Radhakrishnan (left) and his team showing high-quality images acquired from RISAT-1 to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi.

stormed into an elite, exclusive club of nations comprising the U.S., Russia, China, France and Britain — all U.N. Security Council permanent members — that have this capability.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hailed the successful test as “another milestone” in the country’s “quest for security, preparedness and to explore the frontiers of science”.

“The three-stage Agni-V missile’s entire performance has been successfully demonstrated. All mission objectives and operational targets have been met,” Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief V.K. Saraswat said.

“India is today a nation with proven capability to design, develop and produce a long-range ballistic missile. India is a missile power now,” an exultant Saraswat said.

“It was a fantastic launch. It hit the target with high accuracy,” S.P. Dash, the director of the test range, added.

Reaction came in swiftly from China as well, where Foreign Ministry spokesperson Liu Weimin downplayed the tests, saying: “China and India are both big emerging countries, we are not rivals but cooperation partners.”

During the test, the 17.5-metre-long, 50-tonne Agni-V reached an altitude of 600 km and attained a velocity of 7,000 metres per second, which enabled the missile to achieve its intended target range. The missile system can be transported by road or rail.

Agni-V’s range is 500-km short of an ICBM, for which the world standard is 5,500-km range. China’s Dongfeng-31A ICBM has a range of 11,500 km and can

night conditions. With the launch, the PSLV rocket has successfully put in orbit 53 satellites out of 54 it carried — mostly remote sensing/earth observation satellites both Indian and foreign — and has been a major revenue earner for ISRO.

Its sole failure happened in 1993, when a satellite was not able to attain orbit.

The rocket that delivered Riasat-1 into space is ISRO’s four-stage PSLV’s upgraded variant called PSLV-XL. The letters XL stand for extra large as the six strap-on motors hugging the rocket at the bottom can carry 12 tonnes of solid fuel as against the base version that has a fuel capacity of nine tonnes. The PSLV’s four stages are fuelled with solid and liquid propellants. The

first and third stages are fuelled by solid fuel, while the second and fourth stages are powered by liquid fuel. ISRO had used the PSLV-XL variant for its Chandrayaan-1 moon mission in 2008 and for launching the GSAT-12 communications satellite in 2011.

AGNI-V

With the Agni-V launch from Wheeler Island off the Odisha coast on April 19, India emerged as a major missile powerhouse of the world, having developed this long-range missile capable of carrying a one-tonne warhead, almost entirely indigenously over the last four years.

With the development, India also



easily hit targets across entire Asia and as far as Europe.

Following the test, Agni-V will go through more tests before it is inducted into the armed forces by the end of 2014 or early 2015. India maintains a ‘no-first-strike’ nuclear doctrine. Agni-V and the 3,500-km-range Agni-IV missile, successfully tested in November 2011, provide the country’s strategic forces “a second strike” capability against a nuclear attack from enemies.

THE SPACE ODYSSEY

From the days of having a church as control room, the bishop’s house as office, a bicycle as ferry, naked eyes to track the smoke plume at Thumba in Kerala, and converting a toilet into a satellite data receiving centre in Bangalore, the Indian space odyssey has come a long way to launching lunar probes, working on a Mars mission and ferrying foreign satellites into orbit.

“During those days, infrastructure was not available. We utilised whatever was available. In Bangalore, we converted a toilet into a data receiving centre for our first satellite Aryabhata,” mused U.R. Rao, former chairman of ISRO.

Today, India is reckoned as a serious emerging player in the global satellite launch and manufacturing industry and the market leader in vending images sent by its remote sensing/earth observation satellites.

Ferrying 27 foreign satellites till date, ISRO, in August 2012, would carry an 800 kg French satellite (the heaviest foreign payload to be carried by an Indian rocket), signalling the increased confidence in the space agency’s PSLV rocket. The space

A panoramic view of fully-integrated 44.5-metre tall and 321-tonne heavy PSLV-C19.



1962 The Indian National Committee for Space Research is set up by Department of Atomic Energy, and work begins on building Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS).

1963 First sounding rocket is launched.

1965 Space Science and Technology Centre is established in Thumba, Kerala.

1968: Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station is set up in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

1969 The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is formed under Department of Atomic Energy.

1971 The Satish Dhawan Space Centre is formed in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



1972 Department of Space is established and ISRO brought under DOS. ISRO Satellite Centre is established in Bangalore and the Space Applications Centre is formed in Ahmedabad.

1975 Satellite Instructional Television Experiment is done, using a U.S. satellite.

1976 First Indian satellite Aryabhata launched.

1979 Bhaskara-1, an earth observation experimental satellite is launched. First experimental launch of Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3) carrying Rohini satellite. Satellite is not placed in the orbit.

1980 – Second experimental launch of SLV-3 with Rohini satellite. Mission successful.

1981 – First developmental launch of SLV-3.



DRDO chief V.K. Saraswat (second from right) with his team celebrating the successful launch of Agni-V.

agency has also jointly built two heavy satellites — the 3,453 kg W2M and the 2,541 kg Hylas — for the French agency EADS Astrium.

On its own, India uses its satellites for civilian (earth observation/remote sensing, communication, meteorology) and defence purposes. Recently, the government told Parliament that communication satellites for Navy and Air Force would be launched within a two-year timeframe.

The high point in India's space odyssey was its moon mission in 2008 when it launched Chandrayaan-1. Chandrayaan-2, a joint lunar exploration mission with the Russian Federal Space Agency, is slated for launch in 2014.

But the achievements that ISRO started notching up in rocket and satellite launches since 1990s were due to the trials and tribulations that its founding fathers underwent while laying the building blocks. Though ISRO has been flying sounding rockets (experimental rockets)

from Thumba since 1963, its efforts to launch a rocket with a heavier payload actually started with Satellite Launch Vehicle-3 (SLV-3) in 1980.

However, by that time, ISRO had already built and launched two satellites — the 358 kg Aryabhata and the 444 kg Bhaskara-1.

“Starting from the scratch was the challenge before us while we began the Aryabhata project. A majority of the team members were new to this field. The time given was just two-and-half-years so that it could be flown in a Russian rocket. Building clean room, thermo vacuum room and other facilities were all new,” recalled Rao.

After Bhaskara-1, the Indian space agency built the APPLE communication satellite that laid the ground for the INSAT series satellites possessing multiple capabilities — telecom, television, meteorological and imaging. “Building the four-in-one satellite was a challenge. While we designed the INSAT-1A satellite, it was made

by Ford Aerospace and was launched by an American rocket. The satellite had a short life,” said Pramod Kale, the first project director for INSAT.

However, success started smiling at ISRO from INSAT-1B onwards which, according to Rao, ushered in the communication revolution in India. There was no looking back for the space agency on the satellite side. From one-tonne satellites, the INSAT series started growing in weight to become three-tonners and ISRO later started making satellites for others.

Scientists at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram during those times were, however, toiling to get their rocket right, as the SLV and Augmented SLV (ASLV) missions gave mixed results.

“The two ASLV failures were the real test beds for perfecting the PSLV rocket. Issues like rocket tumbling, monitoring of rocket's main forces, detailed profiling of wind and other issues were done,” said S.C. Gupta, former director of VSSC.

The third ASLV with Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS) turned out to be successful but the result of the first PSLV flight in 1993 was negative, owing to a software error which was later sorted out.

Since then, it has been a steady march ahead for ISRO as far as the PSLV rocket is concerned. The space agency has now three PSLV variants. “As technology was not available, we developed our own navigational systems,” Gupta said.

But the serious issue before ISRO is perfecting the technology for its heavier rocket — the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) — so that heavy

communication satellites can be launched and the rocket used for launching heavier, third-party payloads.

“The challenge before ISRO is to get its own cryogenic engine that would power the final stages of the GSLV rocket perfectly. Otherwise, the rocket has the same reliability as the PSLV,” said B.N. Suresh, former director, VSSC.

The one GSLV rocket fitted with an indigenous cryogenic engine failed during a flight. The failure of a second GSLV rocket in 2010 forced ISRO to apply the brakes on GSLV — to take a detailed look at its heavy-rocket programme.

According to ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan, the space agency is in the process of getting its cryogenic engine ready to power the GSLV sometime during September/October 2012.

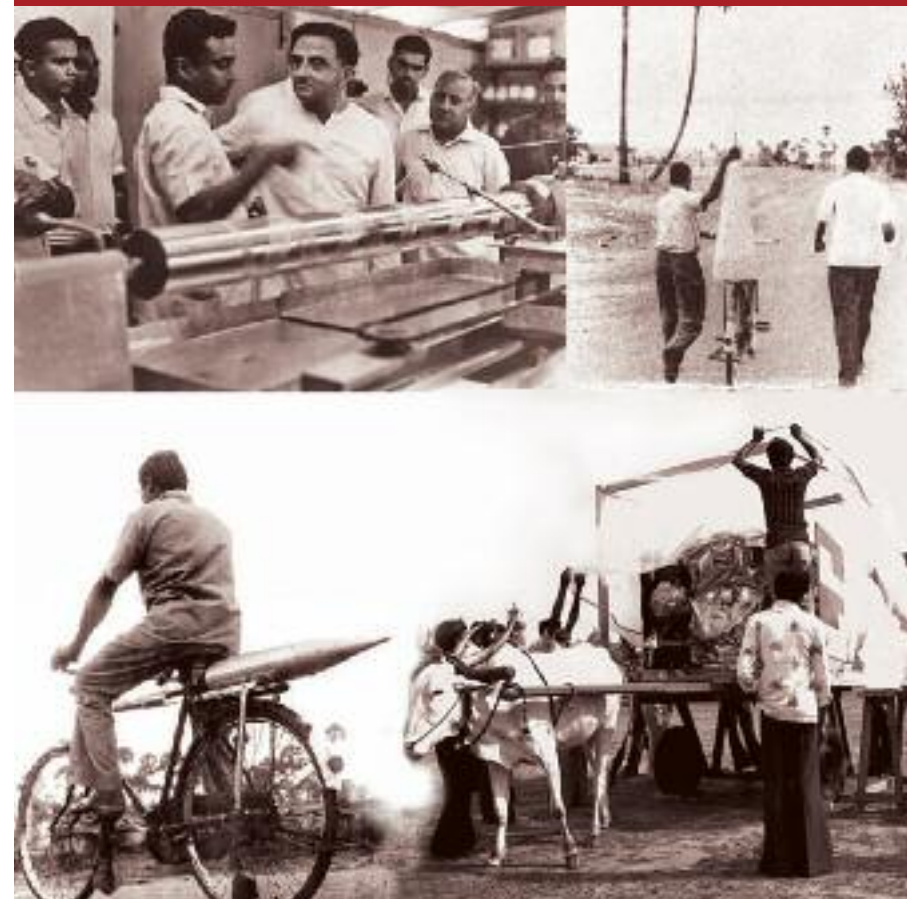
Meanwhile, ISRO, that is also developing an upgraded GSLV variant called GSLV Mark-III, plans to fly the rocket without the cryogenic engine during 2012-13.

THE MISSILE TRAJECTORY

India's journey in missile technologies has been one roller-coaster ride, punctuated with efforts at isolating the country from obtaining critical dual-use technologies for conducting its only two nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998.

Effectively, India's entry into missile development to provide it a credible second-strike option and deterrent to any nuclear adventure that its adversaries in the neighbourhood could attempt happened only in 1983 when Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was roped in to pioneer the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). The IGMDP was successfully concluded in 2007. But its first step was the 150-km-range, single-stage, liquid-propelled, surface-to-surface Prithvi missile's

A GIANT LEAP



test in February 1988. The single-stage, solid-fuel 700-900-km range Agni-I test quickly followed in May 1989. The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) did slow down the Indian missile programme but did not cripple it in any way. India continued its march and here we have Agni-V, with all its three stages powered by solid propellants, as a “game-changer” for India.

The march was ably aided by DRDO's

From the days when bicycles and bullock-carts worked as ferries to carry rocket parts, the Indian space odyssey has come a long way.

“consortium approach” that roped in many of its own laboratories to work on specific technologies, private industries that produced components through technology transfers and universities that collaborated on projects to infuse new thinking. The success story continues. 🚀



1982 Launch of Insat-1A communication satellite by an U.S. rocket.

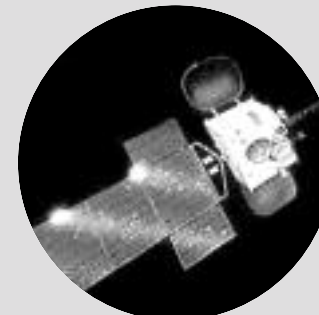
1983 Second developmental flight of SLV-3 places Rohini satellite in orbit. Insat system is commissioned with the launch to Insat-1B satellite.

1984 First Indian astronaut Rakesh Sharma enters Russian space station ‘Salyut 7’.

1987 First development launch of Augmented SLV (ASLV) with satellite SROSS-1. Mission fails.

1988 Launch of Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellite — IRA-1A — through Russian rocket. Mission fails.

1991 Launch of second operational remote sensing satellite IRS-1B.



1992 First successful launch of ASLV placing SROSS-C satellite. Launch of Insat-2A — the first satellite of the indigenously-built second generation Insat series, followed by series 3 and 4.

1993 First development flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) with IRS-1E. Mission fails.

1994 Fourth developmental flight of ASLV with SROSS-C2. Mission successful. Successful launch of PSLV placing IRS-P2 in orbit.

1996 Third developmental flight of PSLV with IRS-P3.

1997 First operational launch of PSLV carrying IRS-1D.

WOMEN BEHIND THE ROCKETS



Tessy Thomas

Project Director (Mission) Agni-V
Age: 49
Employer organisation: DRDO
Working since: 1988
Family: Husband in the Indian Navy;
son named Tejas
Passionate about: Cooking



N. Valarmathi

Project director for Risat-1
Age: 52
Employer organisation: ISRO
Working since: 1984
Family: Husband, a banker;
a daughter and a son
Passionate about: Nature, books

She sees no paradox in a woman working on Agni-V. Associated with all Agni-series missiles, Tessy Thomas led the Agni-IV team as project director for vehicles and mission and was project director (mission) for Agni-V. "There is no gender discrimination in science because science does not know who is working for it. When I reach there for work, I am no more a woman. I am only a scientist," says Thomas.

She was in class VIII when her father,

an accountant, suffered a paralytic stroke and remained confined to the house till his death. "My father was good at mathematics and was a very knowledgeable person. My mother is a qualified teacher but she never went to any school for teaching. She put in all her effort in teaching her children, the six of us — five girls and a boy."

While her siblings became engineers, managers and bank officers, Thomas rose to dizzy heights as a defence scientist. "From my school days, I wanted to do en-

gineering for reasons I don't know. I completed my engineering and took an M.Tech in guided missiles," said Thomas.

Among scientists, the father of India's missile programme A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is her inspiration. "When I joined in 1988, Dr. Abdul Kalam was a director of DRDL (Defence Research and Development Laboratory) and was the one who directed me to join inertial navigation group."

VALARMATHI'S JOURNEY

Satellite scientist N. Valarmathi, 52, was herself on cloud nine when her baby, the Risat-1, started its ascent to the skies. "It was a nice feeling. I felt great," Valarmathi, project director for the Risat-1 project, said.

Hailing from Tamil Nadu's Ariyalur district where she had her schooling, Valarmathi is the first woman to head a remote sensing satellite project. Holding a Master's degree in engineering from Anna University, Valarmathi joined ISRO Satellite Centre in Bengaluru in 1984. Valarmathi has worked on satellite projects like Insat 2A, IRS IC, IRS ID, TES and finally Risat.

Wife of a banker, G. Vasudevan, and mother of two, Valarmathi got involved in the Risat-1 project in 2002 and worked in capacities like deputy project director and associate project director before she got elevated as the project director. 📌

— V. Jagannathan with Mohammed Shafeeq

AN AUGUST BEGINNING

India is set to ferry its heaviest foreign satellite into orbit, ISRO chief K. Radhakrishnan tells **V. Jagannathan**

Come August, an Indian rocket will ferry a French satellite, an 800-kg SPOT-6 — the heaviest foreign satellite till date — towards the heavens. In the process, Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will earn a handsome fee.

What is further interesting is that the launch deal signals the increasing confidence of others in the precise satellite launch capability of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

"Today, internationally, India is viewed as a front-running space-faring nation. Of course, this is a great testimony to our capabilities that the French satellite maker EADS Astrium prefers PSLV over the other launch vehicles of the same class. You may also remember that we had earlier built two commercial communication satellites for European operators EUTELSAT and Avanti Communications, in collaboration with EADS," ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan said. With augmentation of manufacturing capacity and industry participation, we will aggressively pursue the international market for satellites in the future, he added.

Radhakrishnan, 62, was busy with the post-launch activities of India's own Radar

Imaging Satellite (Risat-1). He dwells on ISRO's plans to build heavier satellites, measures to increase the transponder capacity and other matters. *Excerpts:*

On ISRO's plans to build heavier satellites having more transponders...

ISRO currently develops satellites in the 3-3.2 tonne class lift-off mass and around 8 kW power. We are currently developing a 4-tonne class communication satellite, GSAT-11, that will have around 14 kW power and a Ka/Ku band hybrid payload. The throughput of this satellite would be around three-four times of the satellites that we have today. We are also planning to develop a 6-tonne class communication satellite with even higher payload capacity.

Current transponder capacity, operated as INSAT capacity, is around 250. This includes capacity from ISRO satellites and leased transponders. The INSAT capacity is set to reach the 300 mark by the 12th plan.

On the view that India should first perfect its heavier rocket, the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), before inter-planetary missions...

Launching heavier rockets and conducting inter-planetary missions are not mutu-

ally exclusive. Both are imminent to be pursued at the same time for the country. We plan to have the next flight of GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic engine very soon. Our GSLV Mark III is in an advanced stage of development and an experimental flight test is being planned.

On India and China in space sector.

The Indian and Chinese space programmes have reached new heights in their respective endeavours. The Indian space programme is evolving with the impetus for national imperatives and for social and economic uplifting of the people. India's space programme is bright and several successful missions in a short span of time are a testimony to this unconcealed truth. 📌



1999 PSLV carries foreign payloads (Korean and German satellites), along with ISRO's satellite 'Oceansat'.

2001 Successful launch of heavy rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with GSAT-1 satellite.

2003 Launch of GSAT-2 onboard GSLV and Resourcesat-1 by PSLV.

2004 Launch of Edusat by GSLV's first operational flight.

2005 Second launch pad at Sriharikota. Launch of Cartosat-1, Hamsat by PSLV.

2007 Launch of Cartosat-2 with Space Capsule Recovery Experiment and two foreign satellites and successful recovery of the space capsule.



2008 Launch of Israeli satellite Tecsar by PSLV. Launch of 10 satellites by a single PSLV — two Indian and eight foreign. India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1 by PSLV is planned.

2009 Launch of Radar Imaging Satellite (Risat-2) and Anusat from Anna University (first satellite from an Indian University) by PSLV.

2010 Failure of two GSLV missions. Launch of Cartosat-2B, STUDSAT and three small foreign satellites by PSLV.

2011 Launch of Resourcesat-2 and two small satellites by PSLV. Launch of GSAT-12 by PSLV. Launch of Megha Tropiques and three small satellites by PSLV.

2012 Launch of Risat-1 by PSLV.



SECOND LIFE

A special pension and life insurance scheme would benefit over five million unskilled and semi-skilled workers employed overseas, mostly in the Gulf countries, says **Sanu George**

From left, State Excise Minister K. Babu; CPI Parliamentarian K.E. Ismail; State Non-Resident Keralite Affairs Minister K.C. Joseph, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi; Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and MLA Hibi Eden.

Fulfilling the promise made by the government to the underprivileged among the vast non-resident Indian (NRI) community, Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi launched the Pension and Life Insurance Fund (PLIF) in Kochi recently.

The much-needed “lifeline” that will address the social security needs of millions, was announced by Prime Minister Man-

mohan Singh during the 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Jaipur this January.

The scheme, aimed at people in the age group 18-50, caters to those having a stamp of “emigration clearance required” on their passports, besides a valid work permit or an employment contract.

The pension will commence after age 60 and there would be an accidental cover once the member of this scheme returns from abroad.

According to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA), over five million people belonging to the poorest of the poor in the NRI community would be eligible for this scheme.

Incidentally, this scheme is generally meant for those in the Middle-East countries. “This is a life insurance scheme, besides helping the holder to save for old age and accumulate savings for resettlement. My ministry would also contribute from its budget to the PLIF,” said minister Ravi.

Any person availing the scheme has to pay ₹5,000 while the MOIA would chip in with ₹2,000 for male workers, and ₹3,000 if the person entering the scheme is going abroad to work as a housemaid.

“In this scheme, the Life Insurance Corporation and Bank of Baroda are also participants. People opting for this would get a unique number and all the details of the members would be available on a computer,” added the minister.

He said all the Indian embassies have been informed that they should help of those who approach them to become a member.

“Incidentally, this is the pilot project that has been launched and one which is going to bring some sort of stability for the NRIs. We also call upon the non-resident organisations that are working abroad to take interest in promoting this unique scheme,” said Ravi.

The minister also praised the efforts of Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in making the scheme a reality.

Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, present during the launch of the scheme, said this was going to be one of the best gifts ever given to the ordinary working-class NRI.

“A good number of the poorest of the poor working abroad generally return empty-handed. As a result, his requirements like home, education and marriage remain a distant dream. With this

NEW LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

- The Overseas Ministry will provide an annual co-contribution of up to ₹3,000 for female workers and ₹2,000 for male Indians working overseas.

- Workers will be required to partly contribute for their pension and resettlement returns.

- The pension will commence after age 60 and there would be an accidental cover once the member of this scheme returns from abroad.

- The scheme provides opportunity to low-paid workers to accumulate savings for resettlements pension when they return to India.

- It also provides life insurance cover for a specified period in case of natural death.

- People opting for this would get a unique number and all the details of the members would be available on a computer.

scheme in force, no one needs to worry about their future,” remarked the chief minister.

According to a recent study by the Centre for Development Studies on the Kerala diaspora, the number of Kerala emigrants living abroad in 2011 was estimated to be 2.28 million, up from 2.19 million in 2008, 1.84 million in 2003 and 1.36 million in 1998.

The report said the total remittances to Kerala in 2011 were estimated to be ₹49,695 crore compared to ₹43,288 crore in 2008.

Nearly 40 percent of Kerala’s emigrants live in the UAE and 25 percent in Saudi Arabia. In the last three years, especially, after the global crisis, Saudi Arabia has gained about 2 percentage points and UAE has lost out by the same proportion. ☛



Shah Rukh Khan performing to the tune of 'Chammak Challo' with Yale student Natalia Khosla.

SHAH RUKH CHARM'S YALE

The Ivy League institution felicitates the Baadshah of Bollywood with the Chubb Fellowship, one of Yale's top honours

Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan enthralled the students of Yale University as he came to the Ivy League institution as a Chubb Fellow, one of its top honours.

A crowd gathered outside the Shubert Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, early on

the afternoon of April 13 and as the day went on, the line snaked around the corner.

Fans travelled from as far as Alabama and California to join with members of the New Haven and Yale community to hear Khan speak to over 1,700 people.

Khan charmed the crowd as he spoke to them about

success and failure and how to live life to the fullest. He encouraged young people to find fulfilment in creativity, to learn to laugh at themselves and to never become cynical about their lives.

"Failure is a fiendish friend that can lead to success by teaching one to be pragmatic, to work harder and to be true to oneself," the superstar said, adding that the true strength of one's friendships is tested in the face of strong adversity.

Khan emphasised the im-

portance of young people appreciating and cherishing their parents' love.

"Whatever you do, whichever mistakes you make, your parents are your best friends," he stressed.

The lecture took a light-hearted turn when Khan executed his signature 'Chammak Challo' dance moves with Yale student Natalia Khosla.

"This is the most fun I have had in months!" Khan said.

The actor was introduced by Yale student Isha Ambani, who is president of the South Asian Society at Yale, and participated in a conversation onstage with Jeffrey Brenzel, Yale dean of undergraduate admissions and master of Timothy Dwight College, the Yale residential college that administers the Chubb Fellowship; Yale College alumna Sarika Arya; and Yale Law School student Nihkil Sud.

As part of the Yale Chubb Fellowship, Khan attended a reception and dinner at Timothy Dwight College with over 120 Yale students, including members of the South Asian Society at Yale, fellows of Timothy Dwight, and other members of the Yale community.

Each year, three or four distinguished men and women have been appointed as visiting Chubb Fellows.

Former Chubb Fellows include presidents George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, and Jimmy Carter; authors Octavio Paz, Carlos Fuentes, and Toni Morrison; filmmaker Sofia Coppola; architect Frank Gehry; choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov; and journalist Walter Cronkite. 🇮🇳

PAPER BAG BOY

Abdul Muqet, a 10-year-old Indian boy in UAE, has a passion for saving the environment — he makes paper bags and distributes these to malls and stores

A 10-year-old Indian boy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is doing his bit to save the environment. Every day, he makes paper bags and distributes them to supermarkets, stores and malls.

Abdul Muqet started his project when he was only eight, after his father explained to him the negative impact the non-biodegradable plastic bags have on nature.

This led Muqet to think about eco-friendly ideas —

what he could do personally and how he could get other people to act.

Every day after school, Muqet began making bags from old newspapers. In two years, he has made and distributed about 4,500 bags to supermarkets, stores and malls.

(Clockwise) Abdul Muqet watering a plant; with UAE-based industrialist Dr. B.R. Shetty (second from left) after being honoured for his stride; and at a paper bag-making demonstration



"I make 10-15 bags a day, except on exam days," Muqet said. His schoolmates have nicknamed the bags "Abdul Muqet Bags", and he is popularly known as the "Paper Bag Boy".

Muqet is never shy about stopping a stranger in a supermarket to deliver his message. He waits at the check-out counters and politely asks for a minute of their time to talk about the environment. "I tell them that recycling one tonne of paper saves 17 trees," he said.

Muqet has held demonstrations in Marina Mall, Abu Dhabi Mall, Khalidiya

Mall, Jimi Mall in Al Ain, Dubai Festival City and Dubai Marina Mall.

His mother Andaleeb Fatima said Muqet has received several awards for his commitment to environmental conservation.

His parents now accompany him to his demonstrations. "When we saw his enthusiasm, we wanted to nurture his interest. I want to tell mothers that every child can give back to the community," she said.

Currently, Muqet is fulfilling his mission by campaigning to reduce CO2 levels in his home country. 🇮🇳



TOP OF THE HEAP

\$63 billion in remittance came to India in 2011, making the country the top recipient of money from diaspora in the world



India remains the top recipient of money from Diaspora as total remittance flow to the country is estimated to have crossed \$63 billion in 2011, almost 3 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), according to World Bank data.

In an update on migration and remittance, the World Bank said remittance flow to India has surged due to the weak rupee and robust economic activities in the Gulf countries.

The World Bank revised upward remittance flow estimate for 2011 by \$5.8 billion from its previous estimate announced in November last year. "An upward revision to flows to India in 2011 (by \$5.8 billion) is primarily due to a weak rupee and robust economic activity in the Gulf

The remittance flow surged due to robust economic activities in the Gulf.

Cooperation Council countries, which are major destinations of recent migrants," the World Bank said.

In a report last year, the World Bank had said remittance flow to India was likely to reach \$58 billion.

However, the Washington-based multilateral agency has now updated the figure to \$63.66 billion.

India received \$54.03 billion remittance in 2010. With estimated inflow of \$62.49 billion in 2011, China remains the second-largest recipient of money from Diaspora. But remittance accounts for only 0.8 percent of China's GDP.

Total remittance to developing countries is estimated to rise to \$372 billion in 2011, an increase of 12.1 percent over 2010 figure. Worldwide remittance flows, including those to high-income countries, reached \$501 billion in 2011.



VOICES HEARD

Flyrights, an innovative mobile app, allows users to report racial profiling in real time

The Sikh Coalition, a U.S.-based community group, has launched FlyRights, an innovative mobile application that allows users to report instances of airport profiling in real time.

Reports filed through the FlyRights app will be considered official, actionable complaints by the Transportation Security Administration

You can download Flyrights on your iPhone or Android phone.

(TSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the group said.

"FlyRights creates a novel marriage between technology and civil rights activism. It is the first and only mobile application created to combat racial profiling at airports," the coalition said.

Asking its supporters to download FlyRights on their phones and start filing reports of unfair treatment at airports, the group said: "Policy will not change unless you make your voice heard."

INDIANS CREATING JOBS IN US: SURVEY

Indian companies operating in 40 American states have invested over \$820 million in manufacturing facilities in the U.S., creating thousands of jobs, according to the 2012 India Business Forum (IBF) survey.

The survey, titled 'Indian Roots, American Soil: Adding Value to U.S. Economy and Society', released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at a reception on Capitol Hill recently, highlights the significant economic and social impact made by Indian companies on American communities.

"The rapidly expanding

India-U.S. trade and economic engagement provides a key underpinning to the strategic partnership between our two countries," said Nirupama Rao, India's ambassador to the U.S. "The aim is to highlight the range of Indian investments in the U.S. and also dispel misconceptions associated with Indian companies," said Sandhya Satwadi, director and head, CII.

The event was attended by four co-chairs of the India Caucus on the Senate and House side: Senator John Cornyn, Senator Mark Warner, Congressmen Joseph Crowley and Ed Royce.

KEY FINDINGS

- 70 percent of surveyed companies increased the number of employees since 2005
- More than 34 percent of the surveyed companies established manufacturing facilities in the U.S., investing more than \$820 million
- Since 2005, the surveyed companies collectively conducted 72 mergers and acquisitions in the U.S.
- Their collective revenues for 2010-2011 were more than \$23 billion
- Projected research and development investments of the surveyed companies are estimated to be over \$190 million in 2012 alone
- Nearly 65 percent of companies engage in CSR initiatives

YUSUFFALI MAKING WAVES IN GULF

Kerala-born M.A. Yusuffali is today dubbed as one of the most influential Indians in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

He is the first non-Arab elected member of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Thrissur-born Yusufali is managing director of the Middle East's retail giant Emke Lulu Group. The group is all set to register a 20 percent business growth this year, hitting \$5.4 billion as the

UAE's home-grown regional brand expanded outlets to 100 with the opening of a hypermarket at its newly-built mall.

Lulu, which started out as supermarket and department store chain, has gradually moved onto the big format hypermarkets (retail store that combines a department store and a grocery supermarket), and now manages 10 shopping malls in the GCC, said Yusuffali.

The retail major, accounting for 32 percent of the retail business within the GCC, cruised to a 19 percent sales growth in 2011 to \$4.5 billion despite the general downturn.

Yusuffali said despite the global financial meltdown



M.A. Yusuffali.

that the Lulu brand's success story would continue apace with the opening of more outlets in the Middle East and India this year.

He said the retail major would have four new stores in 2012 in the GCC and Egypt and would make a retail foray into India with the opening of a hypermarket by end-2012.

The group's next move is to launch a "Webstore".

"One of the most popular and recognised local brands of the region, Lulu today is a market leader in almost all the countries that they operate," he said.

CHANGE AGENT

Meet **Reshma Saujani**, the first Indian-American woman to run for the US Congress who wants to create opportunities for immigrants in New York City, says **Arun Kumar**

Reshma Saujani, the first Indian-American woman to run for the U.S. Congress, now wants to create opportunities for immigrants who have made New York City their home.

Although Saujani, a lawyer, politician and entrepreneur, lost her 2010 ambitious run against Democrat Carolyn Mahoney, a nine-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New York, she is now “exploring a race for citywide office in 2013”.

“My 15 months at the Public Advocate’s office were truly some of the best of my life,” said Saujani, currently the deputy advocate for special initiatives in the watchdog body, charged with ensuring that all New Yorkers have a voice in shaping the city’s policies.

“What we were able to accomplish with the Fund for Public Advocacy, from encouraging immigrant entrepreneurship to providing scholarships to undocumented students, was powerful,” she said.

“I’m committed to being a leader in charting the future of New York City, and I want to keep creating opportunities for the people who live here.”

Explaining what made her run for the U.S. Congress in the first place, Saujani said: “Things were not getting



Reshma Saujani.

made by showing up, by being at the senior centre or the street fair and meeting the people that are working to make a difference in our communities,” Saujani said.

“I’ve always been an organiser, and as the daughter of immigrants, I have always been especially passionate about engaging people in the political process, who have been excluded from it or who felt no one was listening to them.”

She is behind the ‘The Light of India Awards’ that are a “powerful way to celebrate the work Indian Americans are doing and to show their innovations and accomplishments”, Saujani said, noting that they “are in every form of government from policy leaders to activists to change agents”.

Author Jhumpa Lahiri, television personality Padma Lakshmi and *CNN* contributor and surgeon Sanjay Gupta are among the nominees for the second annual ‘Light of India Awards’, recognising excellence and exemplary achievements of Indians abroad.

The winners of the awards, in the fields of business, education, science & technology, arts and entertainment and literature and journalism, were to be announced on June 1 at a gala event in New York. 🇮🇳

done in Washington, and I was frustrated by the lack of leadership and the lack of political courage we were seeing in Congress.”

“I was noticing people around me become jaded and I wanted to do something to change it,” she said.

“New ideas are so important for driving innovation in this country, and I wanted a chance to get my ideas out there, and talk to voters in New York City about theirs.”

But “the experiences I had talking with voters showed me what a difference could be

MIDAS TOUCH



From left, Aneel Bhusri, Neeraj Agrawal, Rob Chandra, Subrata Mitra and Vinod Khosla.

Nine Indian Americans make it to the *Forbes* ‘Midas List of Technology’s Best Investors’

Nine Indian-origin entrepreneurs made it to this year’s *Forbes* ‘Midas List of Technology’s Best Investors’ for fuelling a bull market for hot young companies.

Heading the Indian-American list is Greylock Partners’ Aneel Bhusri at No. 25 (15 in 2011). Bhusri is co-CEO of Workday, the cloud-based

financials and human resources software company.

Four-time consecutive Midas member Rob Chandra of Bessemer Venture Partners comes next at No. 28 (26 in 2011).

Chandra, who had a string of IPOs on India public markets, has two late-stage companies in India-based Bharat Matrimony and Summit Microelectronics.

Sameer Gandhi of Accel Partners is ranked 33rd (81 in 2011). His 2008 Series A investment in file-sharing company Dropbox is doing quite nicely, going by the rumoured \$4 billion valuation in 2011, *Forbes* noted. He has recently invested in an India online shopping site called Flipkart.

Khosla Ventures’ Vinod Khosla follows at No. 34 (71 in 2011). Khosla is known for off-the-beaten-path clean-tech investments.

Khosla’s passion for social entrepreneurship led to an investment in SKS, the Indian microfinance lender he funded in 2006, *Forbes* said.

Other Indian-Americans on the Midas list include Battery Ventures’ Neeraj Agrawal at 36 (51 in 2011), Mayfield Fund’s Navin Chadha (46), Bain Capital Ventures’ Ajay Agarwal (95), Greylock Partners’ Asheem Chandra (96) and Accel India’s Subrata Mitra (99). 🇮🇳

SIX-PACK POWER



(From left) Indra Sen, Jasmeet Ahuja, Rina Thomas, Sahil Singh Grewal, Victor Roy and Vineet Singal.

Six Indian Americans were among 30 immigrants and children of immigrants from 20 countries who won ‘2012 Paul and Daisy Soros New American Fellowships’ to pursue

advanced degrees. Each award provides up to \$90,000 in tuition and support for two years of graduate study in the U.S. in any field.

Texas-born Sahil Singh Grewal, will use his grant to

pursue a law degree or MBA. Singh worked on health care issues while interning at the White House.

Jasmeet Ahuja plans to use the money to pursue a law degree at Yale Law School.

New Jersey-born Victor Roy will use his award to study for an MD at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

Born in Norwalk, Connecticut to an Indian father and Chinese mother, Indra Sen will use his grant to pursue a Master’s degree in public policy at Harvard University.

Born in India, Vineet Singal plans to use his grant to study for a medical degree at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine. Louisiana-born Rina Thomas, who deferred her admission to Harvard Law School to become advisor to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal on economic development, taxes and budget policy, will use the grant to complete her law degree. 🇮🇳

TOPPER'S STOP

Rohan, a science student of Dubai Modern High School who topped ICSE Grade 12 exams worldwide, hopes he can return to India one day, writes **Malavika Vettath**



This 17-year-old knew he would do well in his Grade 12 exams but becoming the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) topper worldwide with 99.5 percent marks was unimaginable. India-born Rohan Sampath now looks forward to joining Stanford University and unlike many brought up in Dubai, he really hopes he can return to India some day.

"My first reaction was disbelief. I thought it was a typo. I didn't expect it," Rohan, a science student of Dubai Modern High School, told *IANIS* in an interview.

Born in Mumbai, Rohan scored 100 percent in mathematics, 100 percent in

physics, 100 percent in computer science and 98 percent in English, becoming the highest scorer in the history of the ICSE examinations.

His parents, who have been in Dubai for 18 years, are naturally overjoyed but say they were more elated when he got through both Stanford and Yale universities in the United States. "We were not that concerned about marks. He has topped in school every year with 98 percent. My elation was higher when he got through Stanford and Yale. Only later when we realised that he had topped ICSE across the world, then of course we were very happy," said his mother Sandhya Sampath.

Rohan has chosen to attend Stanford University and study either economics or engineering. Private tuition classes have no place in Rohan's study mantra, defying a trend among a majority of Indian families.

"I've been an opponent of tuitions. Teachers in school have been instrumental in my success. I look at private tuitions as an insult to my teachers as I trust them completely," said Rohan.



"I think the hours spent in tuitions should be spent in studying yourself with focus or on extra-curricular activities," he added.

Contrary to the image of a topper, Rohan doesn't believe in studying long hours or cramming either. In fact, the teenager was busy organising an international debate competition in his school just a week before his exams.

"We were hosting the 'Modern World Debates,' which saw teams coming from the UK, India, Qatar and Singapore. It was a responsibility we had to fulfill," said the bespectacled youngster who is also the president of the school debating society.

He might not have been worried, but his mother sure was anxious. "Believe me, I was very worried but we had no choice," Sandhya told *IANIS*, adding that Rohan is a good tennis player and swimmer as well.

Rohan's school principal Darryl Bloud too is all praises for him. "Rohan Sampath has re-defined the word 'full potential' by raising the bar at Modern High with his phenomenal achievement at the ISC Examinations 2012. We salute this outstanding member of the Modern community,"

Rohan has chosen to attend Stanford University and study either economics or engineering.

Bloud said.

Despite having grown up in Dubai all along, Rohan says he has a special connect with India. Recalling his holidays with grandparents to teaching underprivileged children in Mumbai as a volunteer for an NGO called 'Aakashsha' last year, Rohan hopes he can return to his country some day.

"I have always wanted to return to India after my education." On adjusting to life in India, he said: "I don't think it will be that tough. I don't find much difference between me and kids my age in India except that we don't talk much Hindi."

He credits his parents' upbringing and his school for inculcating in him "the Indian value system with a global perspective".

Rohan's parents originally hail from Tamil Nadu but they too were brought up outside their home state. Rohan's success has suddenly shifted the spotlight to the thousands of Indian expat children around the world who study and compete with their Indian counterparts for top honours at school level. 🇮🇳

THE TRAILBLAZER

Barack Obama cites Dalip Singh Saund to laud Asian contribution in the building of America, says **Arun Kumar**

Citing the example of Dalip Singh Saund, the first Indian American elected to the U.S. Congress, President Barack Obama has lauded the contribution of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the building of America.

"They were trailblazers like Dalip Singh Saund — a young man from India who, in 1920, came to study agriculture, stayed to become a farmer, and took on the cause of citizenship for all people of South Asian descent," he said at the 18th Annual Gala for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies



Dalip Singh Saund was elected to House of Representatives in 1956 from California and represented 29th district in California from 1957 to 1963.

in Washington, D.C., recently. "Once Dalip earned his own citizenship, he stepped

up to serve the country he loved — and became the first Asian American elected to

Congress," Obama added.

Born in Chhajulwadi, Punjab, Saund represented the 29th District of California from 1957 to 1963.

"When I think about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I think about my family — my sister, Maya; my brother-in-law, Konrad. My nieces Suhaila and Savita. I think about all the folks I grew up with in Honolulu," Obama said, striking a personal note.

"I think about the years I spent in Indonesia. So, for me, coming here feels a little bit like home. This is a community that helped to make me who I am today. It's a community that helped make America the country that it is today."

The Asian Americans, he said, "came here looking for new opportunities not merely for themselves, but for their children, and for their children's children, and for all generations to come".

"Few of them had money. A lot of them didn't have belongings. But what they did have was an unshakeable belief that this country — of all countries — is a place where anybody can make it if they try," Obama said. 🇺🇸

POLAND SWAYS TO TAGORE'S MUSICAL

Paying glowing tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary, Poland organised an enthralling dance musical based on his work to wind down celebrations.

The dance group 'Taal' from Chorzow, Poland, gave two outstanding performances in Krakow and Warsaw recently.

It selected Tagore's dance musical 'Shyama', a romantic tragedy, in which there are two intertwined love stories — that of Shyama, a court dancer, and Bojroshan, a foreign merchant.

Sabina Sweta Sen, the director and choreographer of the 'Taal' group, said: "It was a great challenge for us to enact this musical play. One needed tremendous concentration and commitment to put on the

stage." Sen had to prepare 20 young dancers to learn Bengali and make them understand the nuances of Tagore's genius. They took six months to stage this dance musical as Polish artists had to sing Tagore songs on the stage themselves along with the dances. The director used the music from Obhi Chatterji's film *Shyama*.

"We are very keen to take this dance musical to many

places not only in Europe but also West Bengal and Bangladesh. We are searching for different avenues and patronage," Sen told *IANIS*.

"The president of the Indo-Polish Cultural Committee (IPCC) in Krakow, Umesh Nautiyal, and Indian Ambassador to Poland, Monika Kapila Mohta, have really encouraged us to produce more classical programmes," Sen added. 🇮🇳



Sam Pitroda, advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations.

FOCUS HOSPITALITY

It's time to revolutionise India's hospitality industry, **Sam Pitroda** tells Indian American hoteliers at an Atlanta event

As Indian American hoteliers savour their ever-growing clout in the United States, they are now being asked to revolutionise the hospitality industry in India.

Sam Pitroda, advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations, called on Indian-American hoteliers at the annual

convention of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) in Atlanta recently to bring their expertise to bear and transform mid-segment hospitality infrastructure in India. "Second and third tier towns in India are in desperate need of professionally-run, affordable hotels. I think AAHOA members have the ability to transform this segment," Pitroda said.

"If America, with its little over 300 million population can have five million rooms, surely India with its billion plus people should at least match that number," he said. He called on AAHOA members to create their own brands suitable for the Indian conditions, rather than just bringing their American franchises. "India is booming and its 550 million people below the age of 25 are not only potentially the workforce for the world but also a major market for the hospitality industry as well," he said.

Pitroda said that with dispensable incomes among the Indian middle class rising, they travel around the country more than ever before but are often hard-pressed to find decent accommodation.

Himanshu Vyas, an Ahmedabad-based entrepreneur, told *IANS*: "I have been impressing upon AAHOA members to get into the game right away. As Pitroda said, the whole country is waiting to be transformed in terms of mid-segment hotels." 📞

GLOBAL LEADER

The University of South Florida honours Infosys founder **N.R. Narayana Murthy** for his leadership and contributions to the international business world

The University of South Florida has honoured Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy with the Global leadership and Free Enterprise Awards for his leadership and contributions to the international business world. Presenting Infosys chairman emeritus Murthy with the awards at the Patel Centre for Global Sustainability recently, USF President Judy Genshaft praised him for his entrepreneurial spirit.

Earlier, in an informal conversation with past and present students, Murthy said because of his middle class background, it was not as

difficult for his company to maintain its values as it might be for the mass of people eking out a living.

"You need a spirit of sacrifice and you need to have trust," he said.

Murthy explained how the company's ethos has its roots in the very first meeting held at his house in Mumbai with his six fellow founders. Their discussion was focused on profitability.

Murthy focused their attention on "seeking respect", "living in harmony with society" and making sure "you don't shortchange your customers," he said. When you do those things, "revenue will come. Profit will come".



In response to a question from about the chances of Murthy entering politics, he mentioned his preference for "rational discussion" and the difficulty the political world offers for such and expressed some hesitation.

Kaushal Chari, chair of the

You need a spirit of sacrifice and trust, says N.R. Narayana Murthy.

USF information systems and decision sciences department, said Murthy's story is inspiring for students. "He's a world-class business leader," said Chari. 📞

NOOYI 4TH IN TOP FORTUNE 500 LIST



PepsiCo's India-born CEO Indra Nooyi is one of the 18 women who have shattered the glass ceiling to lead America's 500 largest corporations, according to *Fortune* magazine's latest ranking.

Nooyi, who leads the 41st biggest company in America, is listed fourth among top

Indra Nooyi leads the 41st biggest company in America.

women executives by the leading US business magazine.

She "has overseen a shift in focus from soft drinks into less profitable, albeit healthier, snack foods market in recent years,"

Others on the list that includes more women CEOs than ever before are Meg Whitman of Hewlett-Packard (10th) and Ginni Rometty of IBM (19th), both of whom

started within the last year.

Also on the list are Patricia Woertz of agricultural processors Archer Daniels Midland, Irene Rosenfeld who heads up Kraft Foods and Ursula Burns who is CEO at Xerox and Sherilyn McCoy at Avon. Rometty is IBM's first female CEO and Xerox chief Ursula Burns is the first African-American woman to head a Fortune 500 company. 📞

MEET KAMAL BAWA, THE SAMARITAN

India-born professor Kamal Bawa has donated the entire prize money of one million Norwegian Kronor (about ₹10 million) from the world's first major international sustainability award to the Indian organisation he founded in 1996.

Bawa, distinguished professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, is the 2012 winner of the Gunnerus Sustainability



Kamal Bawa's donation will help the cause of sustainable development.

Award from the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and letters (DKNVS).

He gifted the prize money to the Bangalore-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), a research institution in the areas of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The Gunnerus Sustainability Award is given for outstanding scientific work that

promotes sustainable development globally, and the first award was given to Bawa for his work on biodiversity in Central America, the Western Ghats in India and the Himalayas.

Bawa was recently elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences for his contribution to public discourse and public policy surrounding sustainability. 📞



The kitchen, as a designer space at home, is becoming vital to tasteful interior decor in urban homes, says Indian designer Wendell Rodricks (below).



KITCHENS GO STYLISH!

Kitchens are becoming style statements in Indian homes, bridging ethnicity and modern practicality

Often pushed to the background in South Asian homes, the kitchen is becoming a style statement with a spiritual feel, says leading Indian designer Wendell Rodricks, who chases his passion for culinary style when he is not fashioning fabrics.

"I agree with writer Devdutt Patnaik who, in an article, 'The Talking Thali', wrote that the kitchen is sacred in many ways. Kitchen style is not simply a kitchen fitted out with technological extravaganza. Style is about bridging ethnicity and modern practicality," Rodricks told *IANS*.

Rodricks, who delivered a lecture on 'Style in the Kitchen' at the Taj Tashi Hotel in Bhutan at the Mountain Echoes festival recently, said he was trying to promote

awareness about kitchen styling among those who liked to spend time over the oven.

The kitchen, as a designer space at home, is becoming vital to tasteful interior decor in urban homes in the region over the past few years with the arrival of modular kitchens, new electronic gadgets and Western influences in layout and food preparation.

More and more Indians are now doing away with dining spaces for smug eating nooks in the kitchen for easy serving. Concern for environment has also led to the creation of organic kitchens in the region.

Neatness and a clean tabletop were vital to a stylish kitchen look at all times, Rodricks said. "The kitchen is often relegated because people tend to look at it as a place for cooking," said Rodricks, a "catering college graduate".

The designer said "his kitchen looks Goan and feels modern".

"We also have decor in the kitchen. Gleaming brass Goan pots and pans, a hanging rack for onions and sausages 'a la ancienne (like an ancient dish)', an altar to

the divine and a fresh spring water well attached to the kitchen to ensure that we use the purest mineral water," Rodricks said.

The designer said the areas where styling was required in kitchens was "without doubt the wash up area, lighting, the breeze circulation and garbage disposal".

"Attached to our kitchen is a luxurious verandah which makes jobs such as cleaning rice and peeling vegetables a real pleasure. There is also a panel of baskets with fresh produce. It adds colour to the kitchen and we know when to use fresh produce without letting it spoil in the refrigerator," Rodricks said.

The style honcho said the "refrigerator stores only liquids such as sauces, wones and neatly boxed excess food, never fresh fruits and vegetables".

"The fresh fruits and vegetables are kept out to entice and colour the kitchen. At the end of the kitchen, we have a compost unit. I insisted we keep it near the kitchen instead of in the modern because we can keep an eye on it. We also plant herbs in one end of the compost," he said.

MINDFUL PARENTING

Nuclear homes are adopting new parenting tools like mindfulness, analysis and complex psychological healing, says New York-based Shefali Tsabary



Do your homework, eat whatever is on the table and don't ever try to be naughty. Parenting has moved beyond the reprimands and stern etiquette codes to become an art of mindfulness, analysis and complex psychological healing.

The mantra in the new nuclear home is freedom and sensitivity; it spares the rod and allows the child to discover its own identity through the roller-coaster of life, said New York-based clinical psychologist and writer Shefali Tsabary, who works with families to promote mindful living and conscious parenting across the world.

"Conscious parenting puts the onus of the child's development on the parents - and is challenging. Parents have to know more to influence their children in this world of Internet," Tsabary told *IANS*.

Tsabary, in her new book, 'The Conscious Parent: Transforming Our-

selves, Empowering Our Children', tries to move the epicentre of the parent-child relationship away from the parent-to-child "know it all" approach to a mutual growth.

Once parents begin to learn alongside the child, "power, control and dominance become an archaic language, because parents unwittingly pass their needs, psychological pain and egos to their children".

"Long ago, my father gave me the freedom to find my own self after I told him that I could not return home permanently to India from the U.S. Our children have the right to fight and live their own destiny," Tsabary said.

Actor Raveena Tandon said: "There is no perfect parent. I became a mom when my child was given to me. We say many things that might unconsciously wound the child. A parent has to be conscious about what is good and bad..."

At a session on parenting in the capital recently, she recalled a lesson that her daughter had taught her.

"I left my favourite sunglasses a couple of years ago at a hotel in South Africa where I was invited to attend an Indian Premier League match. After I returned, I telephoned the hotel to enquire about glasses. I lost my temper with my three-year-old daughter who interrupted my call," Tandon said.

"My daughter said 'Mama, you can have my pink Cinderella sun glasses... and I realised how materialistic I was sounding. It gives me goosebumps thinking about it. We must learn to love the journey with our

children," Tandon said. Healer, psychologist and writer Shivi Dua, the author of a new book on parenting, 'Let Go Mom...I Will be Fine,' said: "Parents are often embarrassed when a child is unable to meet parents' expectations."

"It happened to me recently when I found that my daughter (a teenager) does not know things around the house. I expect her to be responsible around the home. It is understood that we often get carried away with our child creating a disconnect between our needs and the child's needs," Dua told *IANS*.

"Things have changed from my childhood and we have to understand that our children are independent human beings. We have to keep the process of our own growth alive," Dua said.

"We were brought up in a different way. We were told what to do and what not to do. There was no television and no computers those days," said Shallu Jindal, of the Openspace Jindal Foundation, which campaigns for social causes, children's welfare and family values.

(Left) author Shefali Tsabary who preaches freedom and sensitivity while dealing with kids.



NOT JUST A BHUJIA STORY



Bikaner, one of the oldest Rajput fiefdoms, has transformed itself without compromising on its old-world sensitivities and values, former princess **Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner** tells **Madhusree Chatterjee**

The rugged district of Bikaner, synonymous with munchies known by their brand name 'Bikaneri bhujia', has a rich history that makes it one of the most popular destinations for tourists in Rajasthan, after Jaipur.

The appeal of Bikaner lies in the fact that it is one of the oldest Rajput fiefdoms that has transformed itself without compromising on its old-world sensitivities and values, says former princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner who has updated the history of the place in her new book, 'The Maharajas of Bikaner' (Amaryllis).

After it acceded to the Indian Union, the state has become a prosperous business centre, even as the erstwhile royal family has acted as a guardian to its traditions. Its well-kept archives are now open to scholars and its palaces to guests and filmmakers from Mumbai who find its period premises a perfect setting for grand screen dramas, the former princess said.

The archives – sustained by a clutch of trusts and foundations – house one of the largest collections of medieval manuscripts retrieved from the Deccan. "It requires a great effort to preserve heritage; just look at the European countries and Russian palaces. The *havelis* of Bikaner

are in desperate need of protection and renovation," the former princess said.

Outlining the process of change, the writer said that former ruler Sadul Singh was the first royal to merge with the Indian state after independence, inspiring other princely states to follow suit.

"I remember growing up in the palace in the mid-1950s when we still had the place to ourselves. The biggest setback came with the abolition of privy purses. In the case of Bikaner, privy purses went into the upkeep of the palace staff. We had many. The move forced my father and grandfather to reassess their roles," Rajyashree Kumari said.

The former princess said the idea of writing a book about her "former kingdom" turned into a compulsion a few years ago when she was moving home. "I had interviewed some of the old staff of



one of my ancestors, Ganga Singh, nearly 20 years ago and forgot about the diaries. I came across the notes when I was moving house and decided to write an account of the family. The history of our family needed to be updated," Rajyashree Kumari said.

She said she had to research afresh because "the account had to be fleshed out of the biography of her great-grandfather, grandfather and father and the administration files stored in the archives".

The lucid book, full of engaging anecdotes about war, politics, instances of Rajput valour and everyday life in the court in an easy-to-relate style, lists the life of every ruler "over 23 generations" in 12 chapters with analysis of events — strictly from the writer's perspective.

The text is complemented by rare archival images. It begins with Rao Bika's conquest of the desert villages in the year 1465 and goes up to the writer's brother, scion Narendra Singh.

"I don't want Bikaner to lose its character and become another metro city. One of its strengths is its harsh terrain — only the hardest could reach it and it has kept Bikaner out of the way of unchecked urbanisation.

"To my mind, Jaipur has grown to such an extent that it risks losing its identity. Let's not lose the identity — the very characteristics which made the royal region of Rajputana," she said.

The 'bhujias', of course, is another story. It is the successful commercial face of working-class Bikaner, said the former princess. 🍽️

BEST SELLERS

FICTION



1
Calico Joe
Author: John Grisham
Publisher: Hodder
Price: ₹350



2
The Sins of the Father
Author: Jeffrey Archer
Publisher: Pan Macmillan
Price: ₹350



3
Fifty Shades Of Grey
Author: E.L. James
Publisher: Arrow Books
Price: ₹350



4
Guilty Wives
Author: James Patterson
Publisher: Century
Price: ₹550



5
Kill Shot
Author: Vince Flynn
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Price: ₹499

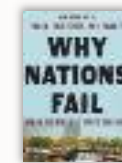
NON FICTION



1
Breakout Nations
Author: Ruchir Sharma
Publisher: Penguin
Price: ₹599



2
Pakistan On The Brink
Author: Ahmed Rashid
Publisher: Penguin
Price: ₹399



3
Why Nations Fail
Author: Daron Acemoglu & James A Robinson
Publisher: Profile Books
Price: ₹1,048



4
The Magic
Author: Rhonda Byrne
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
Price: ₹399



5
Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Author: Katherine Boo
Publisher: Penguin
Price: ₹499

Source: Bahrison, Delhi; Capital Book Depot, Chandigarh; Spell & Bound Bookshop & Cafe Pvt Ltd, Delhi

AN INDIAN CREATED ELVIS!



Acclaimed Indian artist Jeevan J. Kang (seen at left) teamed up with legendary superhero creator Stan Lee to sketch the artwork for a new comic book honouring Elvis Presley — the 'King of Rock n' Roll'. Written by Lee, co-creator of some of the world's leading superhero characters (Spider-Man, X-Men, Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Daredevil, Hulk, Thor), the new short story was released recently.

Commemorating the 35th death anniversary of Elvis Presley, the story by Lee

was originally created as part of an exclusive hardcover, collector's item anthology titled, 'Graphic Elvis', which was limited to only 2,500 copies worldwide and available through select online retailers and at www.GraphicElvis.com.

Los Angeles-based Liquid Comics has now made Stan Lee's 'Elvis' story available to millions for free as part of 'Free Comic Book Day', the industry's biggest annual giveaway of free comic books across America.

In addition to the physical book, an interactive digital and mobile app titled, 'Graphic Elvis: The Interactive Experience,'

is now available for ₹500 and features all of the content from the 'Graphic Elvis' collector's book with bonus videos, animation and interactive features.

Beyond the original illustrations, 'Graphic Elvis' also features numerous hand-written notes and musings, never before seen by the public and written in the margins of various books owned by Elvis, making the hardcover collector's book and the digital app a must-have collectible for Elvis fans around the world.

Lee was joined by some of the most acclaimed graphic novel creators in the industry to portray the King of Rock 'n' Roll in

unprecedented visual styles. They included Kang, Mukesh Singh, Saumin Patel and Samit Basu.

Kang created the artwork of the famous 'Spider-Man: India comic'. He has been signed by Liquid Comics, founded by Sir Richard Branson and his Virgin Group, author Deepak Chopra, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, and entrepreneurs Sharad Devarajan, Suresh Seetharaman and Gotham Chopra, to create art for their Indian comics.

His other works include 'The Sadhu' (Virgin Comics, 2006) and 'Seven Brothers' (based on a concept by John Woo, five-issue mini-series, Virgin Comics, 2006).



A page from 'Graphic Elvis'.



(Clockwise from left) Wedgwood cutlery, inspired by Indian motifs; a sea dragon sculpture by Amanda Brisbane and a Moorcroft glass sculpture.



haute objects'd art from England, and they think that India is a big high-end market for art," said Sunil Sethi, one of UK's leading Indian collectors of designer objects'd arts and sculptures.

"Exporting niche art objects from Europe is easy now as the manufacturers and artists don't impose conditions on sale in developing countries because of the economic slowdown here, as was the case earlier," Sethi added.

European buyers are not in a position to

buy high-end art any more and the countries have to find emerging markets. "Indian economy is still strong. It is a reverse trend," he said.

Sethi, the founder of Interarts that offers contemporary art for corporate and private collectors, promotes high-end accessory art brands like Wedgwood, Royal Doulton, Moorcroft, Arthur Price, Poole Pottery from UK, Costaboda from Scandinavia, Svaja from Eastern Europe, Versace sculptures, Armani from Italy, Rosenthal from Germany, Lladró from Spain, Felix Valez bronze sculptures, Cyan Glass and Franz porcelain from Spain.

An Interarts showcase of home accessory art at Bikaner House in New Delhi on April 27-28 displayed more than 100 limited edition objects'd art from Europe and the US — featuring the best of contemporary crystal, porcelain, bronze and glass sculptures and cutlery. The prices ranged between Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 14 lakh.

A section dedicated to coloured glass sculptures by Amanda Brisbane, Will Shakespeare and Richard Golding — a few of Britain's best glass artists — was the centre of attraction. Brisbane sculpts large products from nature in single sheets of expensive shaded glass while Shakespeare crafts futuristic shape in crystalline fired glass. Golding, the founder of Okra Glass, fuses metal with glass.

Indians have become adventurous. We have been exporting haute objects'd art from England and they think that India is a big high-end market for art.

— **Sunil Sethi**
collector

The three, along with hot glass artist Ian MacDonald, cameo glass artist Helen Millard, glass revivalist Andrew Potter, glass designer Rebecca Morgan, the Isle of Wight Glass Studio and veterans like Simon Moore, represent UK's new face of glass art, a tradition that dates back to the country's ties with glass capitals Venice

(Below and right) Moorcroft glass sculptures on display in New Delhi.



and Murano in Italy in the early medieval era. However, historians say, glass, as a medium of crafting, was used as early as 1,500 BC.

"I started collecting glass in 1992. The first piece of glass that I bought was from Okra Glass. Over the years, my collection has grown and I befriended the artists, glass studios and large glassware chains to set up a export platform," said Sethi, who, with wife Purnima, set up Interarts some four years ago.

He has exhibited and sold British accessory art in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Ludhiana and Chandigarh.

When not in India, Interarts conducts business with Indian buyers on the Internet, he said. ☺



NEW-AGE COLLECTORS

From Wedgwood cutlery to Moorcroft glass sculptures, high-end 'interior art' from Europe and the US is finding a niche market in India, says **Madhusree Chatterjee**

Rising disposable incomes and increasing global travel have exposed the Indian middle- and upper-middle classes to unique art forms. And this means that interior accessory art such as Amanda Brisbane sculptures, Wedgwood cutlery, Royal Doulton and Moorcroft objects'd art are finding their way into urban homes.

High-end lifestyle art brands from across

Europe and the US are looking at India as a large market to sell their products at cheaper prices — a "reverse trend" from pre-independence times, when Indian goods were sold for a pittance in Europe, says a leading UK-based home arts promoter of Indian origin.

"The Indian economy is growing and so are people's choices. Indians have become adventurous. We have been exporting



DESTINATION AUSTRALIA

More than 8,000 Indians applied for visa to study in Australia in the nine months to March 31, 2012.



British authorities, on the other hand, have abolished Post Study Work Scheme for international students. Many critics of the immigration curbs consider this as the single-most damaging of a “multitude of recent policy changes”.

Indian students seem to be have reacted negatively to the denial of work rights in Britain as the number of applications for British student visas from India and other South Asian countries is on a sharp decline.

The Cameron government has also removed work rights for most private college students. Work rights for other students were also reduced to just 10 hours a week.

Britain’s loss is Australia’s gain. UK’s stringent visa rules are driving Indian students Down Under, says **Paritosh Parasher**

In a classic reversal of a situation a few years ago, Australian universities now stand to benefit from the recent tightening of student visa rules and a drastic fall in enrolments in Britain from India.

British universities have experienced a fall of more than 30 percent in Indian enrolments while the percentage of the number of enrolments and visa grants for Australia is reported to be in three figures.

The number of Indian student visa applications for Australia has gone up by a whopping 120 percent in the last nine months while the number of visa grants has also improved by nearly 80 percent in the same period.

Eric Thomas, president of Universities

UK — the representative organisation for Britain’s universities — has reportedly written to British Prime Minister David Cameron, warning that the immigration changes could cost the country as much as five billion pounds (\$8 billion) in tuition fees alone.

The recent immigration crackdown is reported to have led to Indian students shunning British universities.

Besides Australia, the Canadian and European universities and vocational training institutes are also benefitting from international students looking for overseas options other than Britain.

In a similar scenario a few years back, Indian students had shunned Australian education providers after the country tightened immigration rules.

The massive decline in Australia’s number two source for international students, India, led to the Australian government ordering a review of the enrolment and student visa process.

Among other recommendations, a former New South Wales minister, Michael Knight, had pressed for a post-study work visa for international students in his recent ‘Strategic Review of the Student Visa Programme 2011’ report.

MAGICAL FLUTE

One of the doyens of Indian classical music, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia enthalls Poles in Wroclaw, Krakow and Warsaw, writes **Surender Bhutani**

The profile of Poland has gone up by many notches as a cultural destination for Indian artists. After Bollywood films and translations of Urdu masters into Polish language, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, one of the doyens of Indian classical music, enthralled Polish crowd in three cities — Wroclaw, Krakow and Warsaw — recently.

In all these places, Chaurasia won the hearts of the audience with his spell-binding flute recitals. “He creates magic with his flute and we simply feel enchanted with his performance. It was once in a lifetime event and so memorable that we would love to remember

him for a long time to come,” Janusz Krzyzowski, president of the India-Poland Cultural Committee in Warsaw, told *IANS*.

Pt. Chaurasia’s event was jointly sponsored by the Pandit Chatur Lal Memorial Society of New Delhi, along with its sponsors the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Embassy of India. They had persuaded Pt. Chaurasia to perform at concerts in Poland to mark the annual Chatur Lal Music Festival.

Pandit Chatur Lal was regarded as a tabla wizard in his days when he used to play with Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and other great artists, not only in India but also in western countries.

Yehudi Menuhin, a great violinist, once said: “Chatur Lal was one of those few supreme pioneer musicians who won for India the greatest and growing following it now commands. He stole the hearts of his audience wherever he went with his art and his enchanting personality.”

Unfortunately, Chatur Lal died at a young age of 40 in October, 1965. After his death, a memorial society was established, and since then, the society organises its

main function on his birthday. On his 86th birth anniversary, the admirers of Indian classical music in Poland had a feast of functions, named “Smritiyan”.

In each of the three cities, there was a local body to sponsor the event. In Warsaw, the Indo-Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IPCCI), under the patronage of J.J. Singh, agreed to foot the bill. Similarly, the India-Polish Cultural Committee (IPCC) in Krakow provided the local hospitality.

“We are really indebted to ICCR for selecting Krakow, the cultural capital of Poland, as a venue for one of its programmes. The love for Indian classical music for Krakowians is an established fact and many classical dancers and musicians have been coming to this city in the past 15 years. We eagerly awaited for Chaurasia’s concert and he obliged us,” Umesh Nautial, president of the IPCC, Krakow branch, told *IANS*.

In Wroclaw, a fast emerging metropolis because of its proximity to Germany, the Embassy of India, along with Wroclaw University, organised the function. It was for the first time that the citizens of Wroclaw had a chance to listen to Pt. Chaurasia.

“The attraction of Poland for the Indian artists has grown very fast and now many big artists want to come to Poland to give their performances. There is an absolute necessity to have an Indian Cultural Centre like we have the Nehru Centre in London where I was the director for four years,” Monika Kapila Mohta, Indian Ambassador to Poland, told *IANS*.

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia performed at three concerts in Poland to mark the annual Chatur Lal Music Festival.





(Above) Soumitra with actor Sharmila Tagore;
(Facing page) Satyajit Ray immersed in direction.

RAY'S COMRADE

Soumitra Chatterjee, the lead actor of *Apur Sansar*, tells **Pradipta Tapdar** and **Sirshendu Panth** what it meant to work with the legendary Satyajit Ray

The actor and the director, the man and his muse, Soumitra Chatterjee and Satyajit Ray. A symbiotic relationship, which gave expression to one of greatest eras in celluloid creativity, still continues with Chatterjee saying that Ray “remains alive” in him, even 20 years after his death.

Chatterjee, who was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Lifetime Achievement this year, worked with Ray for over three decades and did more than a dozen projects with him. It’s been 20 years since the Oscar winner’s death, but the

equation is as strong as ever, said the Bengali movie veteran.

“From the very beginning, we had developed a comradeship, a rapport, knowing each other, understanding each other. I don’t know what I would have done if he was not there. But I can say one thing for sure that many of my dreams would have remained unfulfilled,” said Chatterjee, 77.

Their association has often been compared with the famous actor-director duos of the world such as Akira Kurosowa-Toshiro Mifune and Marcello Mastroianni-Federico Fellini.

“I couldn’t have learnt so much. Even today he remains alive in me. Even today he is an inspiration for me,” Chatterjee, who is the winner of ‘Officier des Arts et Metiers’, the highest award of Arts by the French government, told *IANS*.

Chatterjee said he had declined offers from Bollywood at the time as he neither would have been able to work freely nor would have succeeded in pursuing other literary genres. “I couldn’t have done recitation, theatre. The whole world knows me through Ray’s films. So why would I need to go to Mumbai?” he asked.

Making his debut in Ray’s masterpiece *Apur Sansar* (The World of Apu), the third part of the Apu Trilogy, in 1959, Chatterjee became the famed director’s favourite actor, playing lead roles in Ray’s masterpieces such as *Sonar Kella*, *Jai Baba Felunath*, *Charulata*, *Ghare Baire*, *Ashani Sanket*, *Devi*, *Abhijan*, *Aranyer Din Ratri* and *Ganashatru*.

Rated as one of the finest actors in India, Chatterjee has also worked with legendary movie directors such as Mrinal



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— Soumitra Chatterjee
actor

Sen and Tapan Sinha. Although the actor describes Ray as his mentor in films, it was the famous theatre personality Shishir Bhadhuri who drew Chatterjee towards acting.

“It’s true that Ray is my mentor in film acting. I have learnt a lot from him. But it was Shishir Bhadhuri’s acting that attracted me towards this art. After

watching his acting, I had decided that I will do only this. My ideas towards life have also been nourished by him,” he said.

Apart from Ray and Bhadhuri, the actor said he is also grateful to Sinha for helping him understand the art of cinema as well as acting.

Asked about the difference in the technique of working of Ray and Sen — with whom he had worked in films like *Aakash Kusum* and *Pratinidhi* — Chatterjee said: “There was a lot of difference. Mrinal Sen writes very well, which is of great help to actors.”

Chatterjee feels his unquenchable thirst for perfection not only eggs him on as an actor but also drives him to work more, even at age 77. “I am a perfectionist. Since my childhood, I have been a perfectionist. I am never satisfied. I am a dissatisfied person. This (dissatisfaction) drives me. The word satisfaction is rather vague. The fact that I have been able to work for so long is the only solace,” Chatterjee said.

In 2004, he received the Padma Bhushan and in 2008 the National Award.

The versatile man credits his upbringing in a literary and cultural environ at Nadia district’s Krishnanagar as one of main reasons behind his success. 📖

SOON, A FILM ON RAY’S CHARACTER SHONKU



Professor Shonku (left) holding Newton, his cat

Soon, Satyajit Ray’s fans would get a rare opportunity to watch a film on Professor Shonku, a famous character created by the legendary filmmaker.

On his father’s 92nd birth anniversary on May 2, Satyajit Ray’s son Sandip Ray said: “I will make a film on Professor Shonku. Discussions are going on over the film, about the sets that are needed, special effects and graphics. However, who will play the role of Shonku is yet to be decided,” Sandip told *IANS*.

To mark the Oscar-award winning late director’s birthday, a portal on Goopy Gayne, a comic character from the film *Goopy Gayne Bagha Bayne* was also launched.

Several people, including film personalities, visited Ray’s residence on Bishop Lefroy Road in Kolkata to pay tributes.

The director’s five favourite foreign language films — *Bicycle Thieves*, *Rashomon*, *Metropolis*, *Battleship Potemkin* and *The Passion of Joan of Arc* — were screened at the Nandan theatre.

To celebrate his father’s birthday, Sandip Ray played western classical music. “During his birthdays, it was mandatory for him to listen to it (Western classical),” Sandip added.



*Abhi na jaana chhod kar...
ki cake abhi kata nahin...
ki pet abhi bhara nahin*
(Don't leave the party,
the cake hasn't been cut
yet, tummy isn't filled yet),
sang the blue-eyed "baby"
of entertainment **Zohra
Sehgal** on her 100th
birthday, before she
'knifed' the cake

She was born a year before Indian cinema. Film, theatre and TV personality Zohra Sehgal, who turned 100 on April 27, has grown to be as colourful and entertaining as the industry itself.

Her characteristic lust for life appeared undimmed on her birthday at the launch of her first official biography, titled 'Zohra Segal: Fatty' by daughter Kiran Segal. The book was unveiled by Prime Minister Dr. Mamohan Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur.

Her zest for life, wit and charm, which have continued to inspire generations, remain unmatched, say entertainment industry veterans. "She is the most incredible woman I have ever met and one of the finest actresses I have ever seen," says filmmaker R. Balki, who roped her in to play Amitabh Bachchan's 'bindaas' mom in his 2007 film *Cheeni Kum*. "She shot with us even in 42 degrees at Qutub Minar (in Delhi). She was full of life and didn't care about the heat and went on dancing. She is awesome," he adds.

In 2008, she was named the 'Laadli of the Century' by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) — Laadli Media

Awards. And she continues to prove how apt the title is for her!

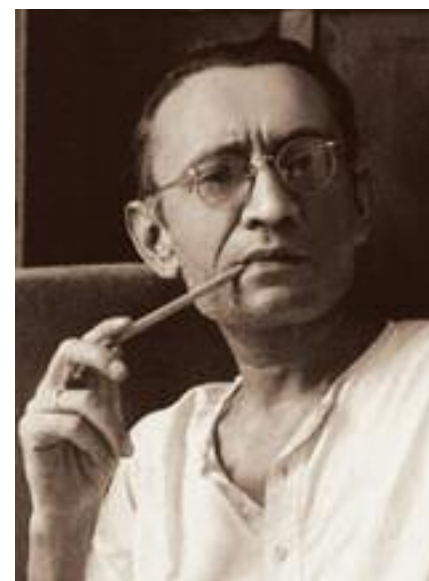
Her tryst with showbiz began with dance when she joined Uday Shankar in 1935. She later took to dramatics with the Prithvi Theatre in 1945. Sehgal has appeared in over 20 films. She is best remembered for her appearances in *Bhaji on the Beach* (1992), *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*, *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002), *Dil Se...* (1998) and *Cheeni Kum* (2007).

In the mid-1960s, she featured in an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's *The Rescue of Pluffles*, and then anchored a few episodes of TV series *Padosi*. While she was in London, she featured in a film called *The Courtesans of Bombay*, directed by James Ivory, in 1982. She went on to feature in TV series like *The Jewel in the Crown*, *My Beautiful Launderette*, *Tandoori Nights* and *Never Say Die*.

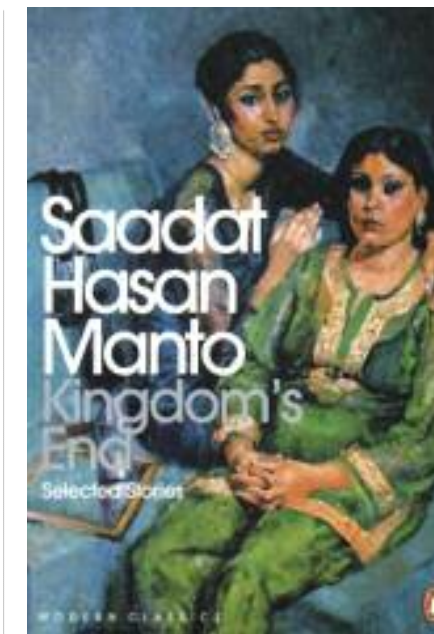
In 1998, she was honoured with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, following which she received the Kalidas Samman in 2001, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2004. In 2010, she was bestowed with the Padma Vibhushan.

Small parts or big, Zohra continues to spread smiles. 🍷

OF MUMBAI AND MANTO



In his short life spanning barely 43 years, Manto left a legacy of some of the most profound and popular contributions to Urdu literature, says **Quaid Najmi**



The city surfaced in his stories. He even wrote scripts for its famous film industry and starred in some movies. Now, 100 years after Saadat Hasan Manto's birth, Mumbai remembered the eventful time that the legendary Urdu writer spent here.

Born May 11, 1912, in Samrala, Punjab, Manto arrived in Mumbai in the 1940s and spent four to five years here. Though not much is officially known about it, his writings provide adequate hints of his sojourn here. He lived in small, dark buildings spread across the congested Grant Road, Byculla, Nagpada areas of south-central parts of the city.

Senior film journalist, researcher and writer Rafique Baghdadi said: "Manto's contribution to Urdu literature is remarkable." Zubair Ansari of Urdu Markaz said, "The legendary writer merits a befitting tribute on his birth centenary."

In his short life spanning barely 43 years, Manto left a legacy of some of the most profound and popular contributions to Urdu literature. A short story writer, film and radio script writer and journalist, in a professional career of less than two decades, Manto bequeathed 22 collections of short stories, one novel, five collections of radio plays, three collections of essays and two collections of personal sketches.

Over the years, he was catapulted to fame with works 'Boo', 'Khol Do', 'Thanda Gosht', and his magnum opus, 'Toba Tek Singh'.

In the biographical sketch of Nur Jehan, Manto writes: "I think I arrived in Bombay on Aug 7, 1940, and my first meeting with Shaukat (Syed Shaukar Hasan Rizvi) took place at 17 Adelphi Chambers, Clare Road, which served both as office and his residence."

His ever-popular story, 'A Question of Honour', described in great detail the places with which he was associated in the city, the places he lived in, ate, visited during his few years here.

In 'A Question of Honour', Manto mentions Mumbai's famous Arab Gully: "Another street in the area was called Arab Gully, with 20-25 Arabs living there, all apparently in the pearl trade. Others were Punjabis and Rampurias. I was in Arab Gully that I had rented a room, which was so dark that the light has to be kept on at all times. The monthly rent was exactly nine rupees, eight annas..."

Despite an early struggle, Manto was fortunate that the film studios of that era recognised his gift for storytelling and he wrote several scripts which later became movies. They include *Keechad*, *Apni Nagariya*, *Begum*, *Naukar*, *Chal Chal Re Naujawan*, *Ghamandi*, *Beli*, *Mujhe Paapi Kaho*, *Doosri Kothi*, *Shikhar*, *Aath Din*, *Aagosh* and *Mirza Ghalib*.

He has also acted in a couple of films — *Eight Days* and *Chal Chal Re Naujawan*.

Considered one of the best Urdu short story writers of the 20th century, Manto also developed a reputation for being the most controversial.

Known for penning topics which were considered social taboo in the Indian and Pakistan societies of those days, Manto was reviled and revered in equal measure and often compared with British writer D.H. Lawrence.

Manto's focus of writings ranged from the grim socio-economic injustices prevailing in the pre- and post-colonial subcontinent, to the more controversial topics of love, sex, incest, prostitution and the typical hypocrisy of a traditional subcontinental male.

He died on January 18, 1955, in Lahore, Pakistan. And the literary void he left behind has been difficult to fill. 🍷

BEKAL

DESTINATION NEXT

After Kovalam, Kumarakom, Wayanad and Thekkady, the Kerala government now aims to place the pristine and scenic town of Bekal on the global tourism map, says **Arvind Padmanabhan**

After firmly putting places such as Kovalam and Kumarakom on the global tourism map, the Kerala government has picked this idyllic town of beaches and backwaters as destination next for visitors to 'God's Own Country'.

The 'Know Bekal' campaign to kick-off the tourism initiative in this pristine and scenic town was launched recently near the landmark Bekal Fort, built by the Portuguese in 1640 and spread over 40 acres.

"Bekal is the next amazing destination for tourism in Kerala. Our efforts that started 17 years ago have now begun to bear fruit. Our top priority is to improve road, rail and air connectivity," Chief Minister Oommen Chandy told *IANS*.

"Where else can you find beaches, backwaters and hills all within a few kilometres?" asked the chief minister, referring to the variety of options offered

by this town, which has settings similar to Goa.

"Bekal received some 3.2 lakh tourists (320,000) last year. We would like the numbers to go up to more than six lakh by 2015. That is our target, that is our aim."

The chief minister also said this destination was the fifth to come up under the Kerala government's drive to promote sustainable and responsible tourism — after Kovalam, Kumarakom, Wayanad and Thekkady.

Otherwise on National Highway 17, less than 10 km from Kasaragod in north Kerala, Bekal is also easily accessible by rail network, some eight kilometres away. The nearest airport is at Mangalore in Karnataka, 70 km north.

Talks are on with the central government to upgrade the railway station, improve the national highway and build an airstrip. To develop resorts, 230 acres were acquired and a part of it was allotted for six private projects.

"Around 50 other properties in the area offer around 1,000 rooms. You also have home-stays villas and ayurvedic centres. Accommodation will be expanded and people are welcome to invest, especially in budget hotels," Rani George, director, Kerala Tourism, told *IANS*.

Detailing the major attractions in and around Bekal, she not only referred to the majestic Bekal Fort, but also those at Hosdurg and Chadragiri.

"There are also many stunning beaches, backwaters and hill stations in and around Bekal," she added.

Ancient temples and mosques, handicraft like lamps, utensils and curios made of bell metal, and preservation of rich culture like Theyyam dance form and Kalaripayattu martial arts are other attractions, George said.

Most other existing resort destinations are close to urban centres and therefore over-developed. Bekal, on the other hand, is still virgin and pristine. 🌴

Travel tips

Bekal is on National Highway 17, less than 10 km from Kasaragod in north Kerala, Easily accessible by rail network. The nearest airport is at Mangalore in Karnataka, 70 km north. Bekal received over 3.2 lakh tourists last year.



FOOD FOR LIFE

'No secrets in the kitchen' is the mantra of celebrity chef Vikas Khanna (above) whose signature dish *gobi ka pakoda* was recently served to none other than US President Barack Obama

US-based celebrity writer-chef Vikas Khanna, whose signature Indian dish 'Tree of Life' — a variation of *gobi ka pakoda* — was served to US President Barack Obama recently, is also a strong votary of the philosophy of "no secrets in the kitchen".

Food has to be shared as it represents sharing of cultures which is the way civilisations move forward, says Khanna, whose new cookbook, 'Flavors First,' has hit the stands.

"There should be no walls, no secrets in the kitchen. Recipes cannot be secret. If my grandmother had kept them as a secret from me, I would not have been a chef. A journey that begins with secrets ends in secrets. People copy me. I have shared my recipes with honesty in my book," Khanna told *IANS*.

"'Tree of Life' is a variation of *gobi ka pakoda* (cauliflower munchies) fried in a batter of rice flower to make it crispy. It is served with a roasted tomato sauce garnished with spices," the chef said.

The dish — embellished on a white China platter with pomegranate seeds and mint leaves — is known as 'Tree of Life' as a whole cauliflower is cut from its base to resemble a tree with leaves spread out like a flower, said the chef, demonstrating the dish in New Delhi recently.

The 'Tree of Life' is also the theme around which Khanna's restaurant in New York, 'Junoon', is designed.

Khanna has been working on 'Flavors First' for the last three years. He said the book

was a diary of his journey from India to America and how it reflected on his dishes. "Your food starts absorbing more influences. I agreed to shifting, but I don't believe in de-rooting myself. I thrive physically in America, but India is my spiritual home," the chef said.

He said the dishes he chose for 'Flavors First' reflect a new kind of understanding about Indian food in the West and the "Indian women in kitchens from where the food comes". It also includes collaborative recipes that Khanna has learnt through his interactions with cooks from across the world.

The book is divided into segments devoted to an introduction to the Indian kitchen, condiments, starters, rice, breads, legumes, soups and salads, vegetables, poultry,

meats, seafood, dessert and drinks. "I wanted to convey the universal theme of food. Cinnamon, for example, occurs in three varieties — American, Indian and Indonesian," he said.

The chef has completed work on his new book, 'Holy Kitchens' — a book on Himalayan cuisine. "I am trying to bring back the meaning of sharing food, breaking bread together and how people bond over food," Khanna said.

'Flavors First'

For foodies and cooking enthusiasts, here are some recipes by **Vikas Khanna**

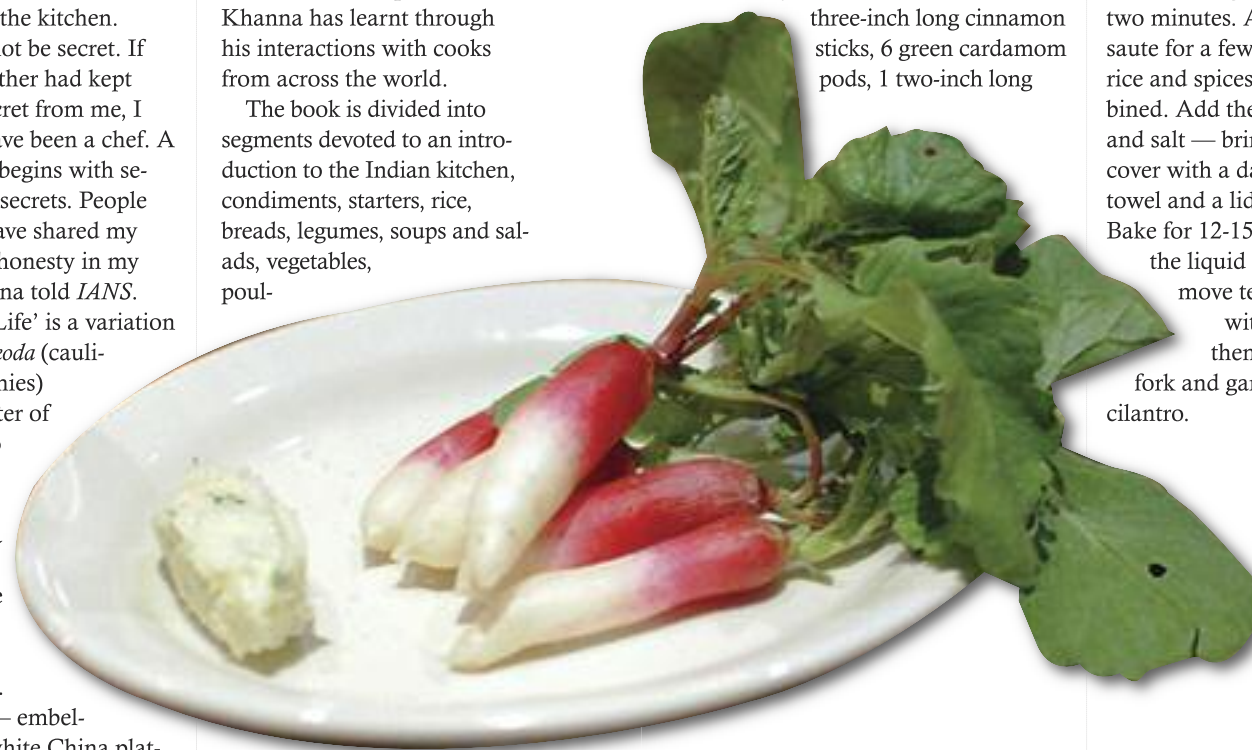
Chai-Infused Emperor's Green Rice

INGREDIENTS: 1 cup of emperor's green rice, 2 table spoons of unsalted butter, 4 bay leaves, 4 white cloves, 2 three-inch long cinnamon sticks, 6 green cardamom pods, 1 two-inch long

water. Set aside. Preheat the oven to 350 Fahrenheit in a medium pot with a lid. Melt butter over medium heat.

Add bay leaves, cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, and ginger. Stir until fragrant for about two minutes. Add rice and saute for a few minutes until rice and spices are well combined. Add the water, tea bags and salt — bring to a boil, cover with a damp kitchen towel and a lid.

Bake for 12-15 minutes until the liquid evaporates. Remove tea bags carefully without tearing them. Fluff with fork and garnish with cilantro.



French Breakfast Radishes with Mustard Dressing.

Fahrenheit. Season the (whole small) hens with salt and set aside for 10 minutes. In a medium mixing bowl, combine honey, soy sauce, lemon juice, garam masala and lavender flowers.

Rub the hens with the marinade. Heat oil over medium high heat and sear the hens from all sides so that the oil enters. Transfer hens in a roasting pan and roast in oven till hens are tender. Insert thermometer in the thigh of hens and wait till it reads 165 degrees F. Arrange on platter and garnish with lavender sprigs.

French Breakfast Radishes with Mustard Dressing (lal-mooli and moongfali chaat)

INGREDIENTS: 1 tablespoon of olive oil, 1/4th tablespoon of cumin seeds, 1/4th tablespoon of black mustard seeds, 1 small red onion minced, 1/4th tablespoon turmeric, 1/2 table-

spoon salt, 2 cups of small and sliced French breakfast radishes, 1 tablespoon of lemon juice, 1 cup roasted peanuts, 1 tablespoon of chopped cilantro.

PROCESS: Heat oil in small saucepan with a lid. Add cumin and mustard seeds. Cover and shake the pan till seeds sputter. Add onion, turmeric, salt and cook. Remove from heat and then cool. Use it as dressing. Place radishes in a bowl and add radishes with lemon juice. Serve with peanuts and cilantro.

Masala Honey Cornish Hens

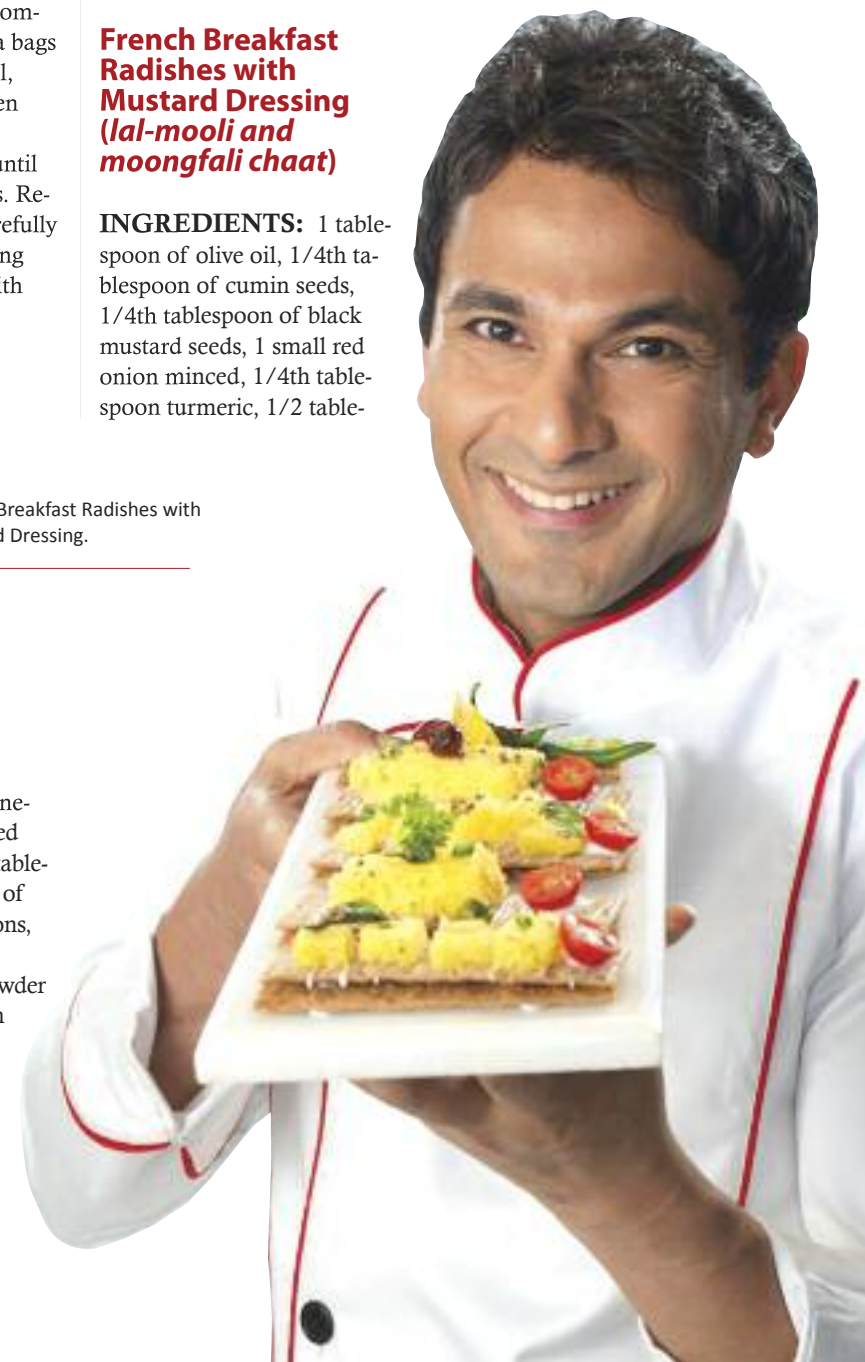
INGREDIENTS: 4 one-pound Cornish hens rinsed well and patted dry, 1/2 tablespoon salt, 2 tablespoons of soy sauce, juice of 2 lemons, 1/4th cup garam masala, 1/4th cup of lavender powder ground, sprigs for garnish and 1/4th cup olive oil.

PROCESS: Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees

fresh ginger (peeled and minced), and one and a half cups of water.

Darjeeling tea bags or strong black tea bags (remove the paper tags), one teaspoonful of salt and half cup finely chopped fresh cilantro will also be required.

PROCESS: Rinse the rice in cold water, drain and then soak for 30 minutes in cold



BHANDARI ELECTED ICJ JUDGE

Justice Dalveer Bhandari, a sitting judge of the Indian Supreme Court, has been elected to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). It is the first time an Indian has managed to get this key international post in over two decades.

Bhandari secured 122 votes in the United Nations General Assembly against 58 for his Filipino rival.

In simultaneous elections at the UN headquarters in New York, Bhandari also secured an absolute majority in the Security Council. In the election to the ICJ, a primary judicial organ of



Justice Dalveer Bhandari

the UN, Bhandari was locked in a fierce contest with Justice Florentino P. Feliciano of the Philippines.

Bhandari takes the place of Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh of Jordan who resigned from the Asia-Pacific region seat at the end of 2011.

An eminent legal luminary, Bhandari will serve the remainder of the term from 2012-18.

Acknowledging his outstanding contribution, the Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, while celebrating its 150 Years (1859-2009), selected Bhandari as one of its 16 most distinguished alumni.

RAJU WINS WHITE HOUSE AWARD



Manu Raju

Indian American journalist Manu Raju was among the 'White House Correspondents Journalism Award' winners for 2012, honoured at the association's traditional dinner with President Barack Obama. Raju, along with colleagues Glenn Thrush, Carrie Budoff Brown and John Bresnahan at *Politico*, was named the winner of the 'Merriman Smith Award for Excellence in Presidential Coverage Under Pressure'.

SINGH GETS PENTAGON POST

Vikram J. Singh has been appointed to a key Pentagon position to take care of South and South-East Asia. Singh was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and was assigned as deputy assistant secretary of defense for South and Southeast Asia, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy). He previously served as special assistant, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy).



Vikram J. Singh

'ASIAN LITE' WINS TOP BRITISH AWARD

Asian Lite, a fortnightly focusing on British Asian events and issues and edited by Indian-origin journalist Anasudhin Azeez, has won the prestigious 'How-Do Newspaper of the Year' award for 2012.

A judging panel comprising BBC veteran Jim Hancock and Google's Andy Barke selected 'Asian Lite' as the 'Newspaper of the Year 2012' from the short-list of eight



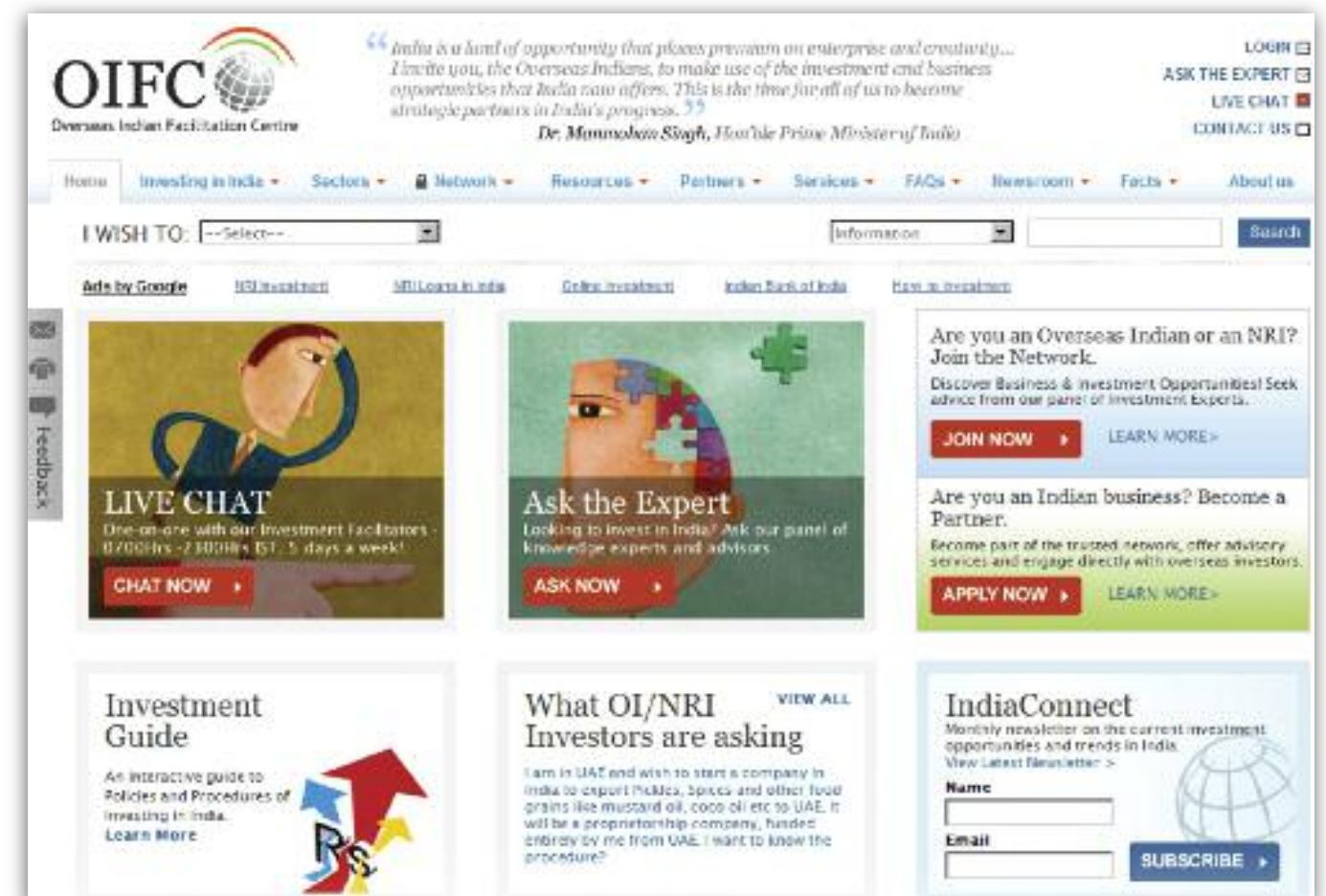
Anasudhin Azeez (left), editor of *Asian Lite* magazine.

leading British titles, including Rupert Murdoch-owned News Corporations' *The Times*; Newsquest's *The Bolton News* and Johnston Press Group's *Lancaster Guardian*. *Asian Lite* was the only British ethnic media title shortlisted in the 18 award categories.

The committee said *Asian Lite* bucked the trend in declining sales and circulation in publishing and with innovative solutions.



Expanding the economic engagement of the Indian diaspora with India



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Confederation of Indian Industry

Celebrating the spirit of festivals



The nation, and expatriates across the world, celebrated the traditional harvest festivals — Baisakhi, Vishu and Bihu — with fervour. “They are not only an occasion to celebrate the harvest but also a time to mark a new beginning,” said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, while wishing every one on the occasion. “May these festivals usher in prosperity and happiness for all,” he said. In the United States, Maryland state governor Martin O’Malley opened his house to celebrate Baisakhi. Over 150 Indian and Sikh community leaders gathered at O’Malley’s residence for the celebrations in Annapolis. In Kerala, crowds gathered at the famed Sabarimala, Guruvayoor, Sree Padmanabha Swamy temples since early morning. The most important event of the day started with the ‘Vishukani Darshan,’ the auspicious sight of their favourite deity. Baisakhi is celebrated mainly in Punjab, Vishu in Kerala and Rongali Bihu in Assam.



सत्यमेव जयते

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