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# OPINION EXPRESS

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A MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE

COVER STORY

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## Trouble in the neighbourhood

**A**nti-India protest has erupted in the bordering town of Nepal after the Himalayan state accused India of enforcing a blockade on transit of goods from India side in support of the Madhesis who are protesting against the changes in Nepalese constitution. Nepal's cable federation said it would suspend Indian television channels and



protesters marched in Kathmandu carrying an effigy of India's prime minister on Monday, accusing their neighbor of imposing an economic blockade and meddling in internal politics. Tension between the South Asian nations has spiked since Nepal adopted a new constitution last week, upsetting southern minority groups who fear being marginalized in a new federal structure. More than 40 people have been killed in protests in the Himalayan republic since August. Indian oil trucks stopped crossing into Nepal because of protests in the south, prompting authorities to try to limit the use of cars and save fuel. Nepal is almost totally dependent on

India for overland supplies following earthquakes in the spring that killed nearly 9,000 people and blocked crossings from China. India has been critical of Kathmandu for rushing through the constitution, despite opposition from minorities living close to the Indian border.

However, over the years, despite the free movement of people, Indo-Nepal ties have gone through tumult, bitterness and trust deficits. Factors like the assertion of Nepali nationalism and India's overt support for Madhesis, among others, have created strains and bitterness in their relations. Some political parties and groups in Nepal have tended to use their anti-India tirade to cultivate their own political constituencies and support base. India too seems to have taken its ties with Nepal for granted. Lack of high-level bilateral visits and meetings too has created elements of indifference, suspicion and doubt about their relationship. Thus not so much the federal constitution but the way it was implemented too became the reason for further bitterness between the two countries. Internal dynamics of Nepali politics like Maoist insurgency, Madheshi agitation, constitution-making and economic blockades etc. also influence India-Nepal relations. China's growing influence is another factor that has a bearing on India-Nepal ties. Over the years, China's footprint has grown dramatically in Nepal. China's interest in Nepal is not merely to keep an eye on Tibetans but to entangle India in the region. Nepal has become a launch pad for China's broader strategic alliance in South Asia. Nepal's participation in the 'One Belt, One Road' project clearly measures up to such a policy goal. China has surpassed India as Nepal's top aid donor and investor in Nepal. Both in terms of FDI and ODI, China has edged past India. China's growing economic engagement with Nepal has given China instruments to change the security architecture of South Asia. China has become assertive in forging strong ties with India's South Asian neighbours. Chinese aid and investment have the intended objective to hedge and reduce Nepal's dependence on India. This is China's way of getting Nepal's support on sensitive issues such as Tibetan refugee protests within the country. In dealing with Nepal, India may have made strategic miscalculations during Nepal's prolonged constitution-making, adoption of the federal constitution and economic blockade (even though India did not impose any blockade) or in its inability to tap investment potential. India continues to face what Ambassador Shyam Saran calls the 'challenge of proximity'.

Nepal is wrestling with the challenges of implementing the new constitution. It has long been a centralized country with centuries old feudal mindset of the past monarchy and oligarchy. The new constitution is a blend of mixed federal features under multiple parliamentary orders of governance. Nepal is dealing with the complexity of a new constitution and faces a number of pragmatic implementation challenges. These and other issues will be discussed by the day-long seminar. The thrust of the discussion will be the major challenges facing India-Nepal relations, the China factor and internal dynamics of Nepal, particularly in implementing the new federal constitution.

—Prashant Tewari, Editor-in-Chief

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# FIX KASHMIR FOR UN SEAT, SAYS OBAMA

Go for a Kashmir solution and help bring stability to the region for a ticket to UN Security Council membership and fulfilling your big power aspirations. That's the broad message President Barack Obama will be bringing to New Delhi during his upcoming November visit to India, preparation for which are in full swing in Washington DC.

Key administration officials are confirming that the UNSC issue will be on Obama's agenda when he visits New Delhi. The US President is expected to announce an incremental American support to India's candidature during his address to the joint session of India's parliament, depending on New Delhi's receptiveness to resolving the Kashmir tangle.

"[UNSC reforms] is something that is under discussion as we prepare for the President's important visit," US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake confirmed on Monday during a read-out

of the meeting between Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her Indian counterpart S.M.Krishna, saying the two had agreed the "President's visit will be a defining moment in the history of our bilateral relations." The clearest insight into Obama's thinking on the matter comes from Bob Woodward's latest book "Obama's War" in which top US policy makers are shown mulling on defusing the Kashmir situation as part of an exit strategy for US from the AfPak theater.

"Why can't we have straightforward talks with India on why a stable Pakistan is crucial?" Obama is reported as musing at one meeting. "India is moving toward a higher place in its global posture. A stable Pakistan would help." Implicit in the rumination is the idea that settling Kashmir would mollify Pakistan, where, US officials say, hardliners are using the unresolved issue as an excuse to breed an army of terrorists aimed at bleeding India.

But that is easier said than done, according to Bruce Riedel, author of the Obama administration's Af-Pak strategy, who has canvassed the centrality of the Kashmir issue to peace and stability in the region. The spoiler to any settlement is the hardline Pakistani military and its jihadist proxies for whom attrition and confrontation with India is an article of faith.

In fact, the solution Washington has in mind (also proposed by Riedel) is likely more palatable to New Delhi than to Islamabad. It's on the same lines of what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan's deposed military leader Pervez Musharraf broadly agreed on before the latter was turfed out of office: The Line of Control would become the international border, but it would be a soft, permeable border, allowing Kashmiris on both sides to move back and forth. The rest – safeguards, procedures etc – is a matter of detail.

Commonwealth Games should have been a thing of pride for us. Sadly, we have become a laughing stock because of it.

# INCHARGE OF MESS

**WITNESS TO CHAOS:** OC CHAIRMAN SURESH KALMADI AND DELHI CM SHEILA DIXIT INSPECT A VENUE



Are  
we  
ready ?



# Commonwealth Games 2010: Incompetent and Deceptive

**A**mazing sequence of comedy of errors led to the national shame, but the player on ground are unfazed. Just when you think you have seen the last joker of the Commonwealth Games organizing committee, someone would come forward and prove you wrong. The latest addition to this illustrious list is Lalit Bhanot. From Scam to Sham, from Game to Shame, it seems we have it all in our endeavour to organize the so called best CWG ever. This is turning out to be a melodrama which could even send all Ekta Kapoor's serials packing. The antiques and our responsibility-ducking attitude has yet again brought a truck full of shit and a whole lot of shame to our nation.



**MESSY:** PICTURES OF ENTRANCE TO ONE OF THE TOWERS IN THE GAMES VILLAGE UPLOADED ON THE BBC'S WEBSITE

What was initially thought as a scam (Indians shouldn't complain, as scams are in our blood) has turned out to a grand scale deception. I am now sure of their modus operandi - Keep on dragging your feet and don't act till the point someone presses the panic button. Then the last minute the Jugad funda of us Indians would come into play and funds would be released. No questions asked and then it's all about filling our pockets and fooling a billion plus population. If it was not an attempt at deception, then why was the media was shown only few selected Games village towers 10 days ago? Why were rosy pictures drawn before all of us? When reality came asking about its legitimacy, 10 days later we have fallen apart like a pack of cards. Suddenly all are critical about the Games, including the two Mikes (Hooper & Fennell). When the same pair was all praise for a brilliant Games village 10 days back, why are they critical now? Why are they running around with threats and giving us 24 hour deadlines to clean our posteriors or forget the Games? Uncomfortable but mandatory questions need to be answered in a hurry.

Let's see how it all started and what Mr. Bhanot has to say when the CWG directors turned psychotic about the hygiene factor in the Games village. Instead of accepting the flaws he tried to teach all of us the theory of relativity in terms of hygiene. I am not sure how violently Albert Einstein would have turned in his grave. This brilliant attempt of his which might not win him a Nobel Prize left all of us high and dry. His statement was bizarre, ridiculous, disgusting and shameful - all at the same



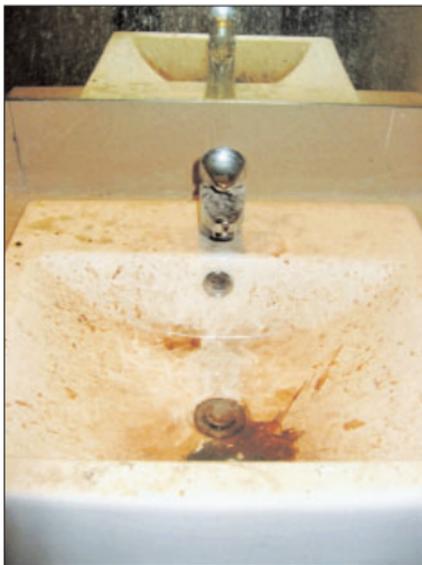
**PICTURE THIS!:** DIRTY PUGMARKS OF A CANINE ON MATTRESS AND (RIGHT) A WASH BASIN BEING USED AS A SPITTOON

time. Does he have any idea that the whole world would be watching him blabber and would be dropping to the floor laughing at us? What he meant, when he said we have our hygiene standard and they have theirs, is out of my wavelength. Does he want to suggest that we Indians are filthy and living in dark ages without an idea what hygiene is all about? Does he want foreigners should come teach us about hygiene? Does he want to say that we are Jaahil and uncultured as a nation? You might be thick skinned Mr. Bhanot but for all of us, your jingoisms are shameful to say the least. Forget the scam, forget the incompetence - for this bizarre statement of his, he should be sacked at once.

If you think you are done with all the gimmicks then look at another genius - Maj (Retd) Dalbir Singh (Games village mayor). When hounded with the same hygiene questions, he was clueless and was at sea to say the least. I can't elaborate what he said about various factors, as nobody can. So I better just list them one by one

**1. Dogs sleeping inside athlete rooms** - The fault of the MCD. The dog catching team was asked for but yet to report. So the stray dogs can jump in and take an afternoon nap on the same beds where athletes are supposed to relax. For God's sake run after anyone you like, but don't poison these innocent dogs for your ego.

**2. Paan spits on the wall** - The workers are all from UP & Bihar and fond of their Paan and Gutkha. So they might have done this artwork. Ask them instead of me, as I myself don't





**LOW ON HYGIENE:** WATER ACCUMULATION NEAR AC PLANT (ABOVE) AND A FILTHY BATHROOM AT GAMES VILLAGE



consume them nor I have spit all around.

**3. Messy and filthy rooms** - Even when you occupy your own flat for the first time, it generally is messy. So we citizens shouldn't blow our ass for this small reason. Oh really? Then should we ask all the athletes to come here along with their Jhadu, bucket and pochha lagane ki kapda? That would pretty much settle the case and solve the problem.

**4. OC guys pissing all around in open air** - It's nature's call and one better be disposed to the nature directly. It is a matter of individual's choice. You might like Western toilets but I might prefer visiting the nearest paddy field with a lota in my hand. You know it's all about comfort levels. This is another theory of relativity in terms of shitting. And Albert Einstein turned violently again.

**5. Algae in water tanks**

It was for sure a bad day and the best was reserved till the last. Out of nowhere a foot overbridge near the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium gave in. This eventuality made the queen of the opera to come to the stage with her polished Miranda house accent. How I can forget her flamboyant cotton Saree? When asked how each day a new bloody thing can happen to the CWG, this is what she has to say - The foot over bridge was for the aam admi (so shouldn't be attached with CWG), not the players. So? Aam admi can die as long as you can save your back from the CWG ghost? Mam, can you imagine what would have happened - if few athletes were right below and the bridge



**CRASHED:** FOOT OVERBRIDGE NEAR J.L. NEHRU STADIUM CAME CRASHING

crashed on their heads? Don't bother how many of the aam addmi the bridge might take along while crashing on the poor athletes' heads. As per her, the builder is black listed and some bloody enquiry would be carried out with reports expected in three weeks. So for next three weeks we shouldn't bother her by showing our filthy and unhygienic faces. Let me admit - I am still in dilemma, whether to cry or laugh on these stupid statements. To top all this, a section of the roof in the wrestler's arena of the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium collapsed, and the Delhi CM, Ms. Sheila Dixit's riposte was that small things keep happening.

The Games are fast turning out to be more irritating than anything. It is only because we have walked (read fooled ourselves) too far, we have no option left but to save our face and restore some respect of our nation, which was badly maligned by few crooks. M.S. Gill can promptly walk away from the cameras (no single word uttered) without taking any responsibility or even bothering to explain how he allowed so much mess to continue for years altogether. But we are

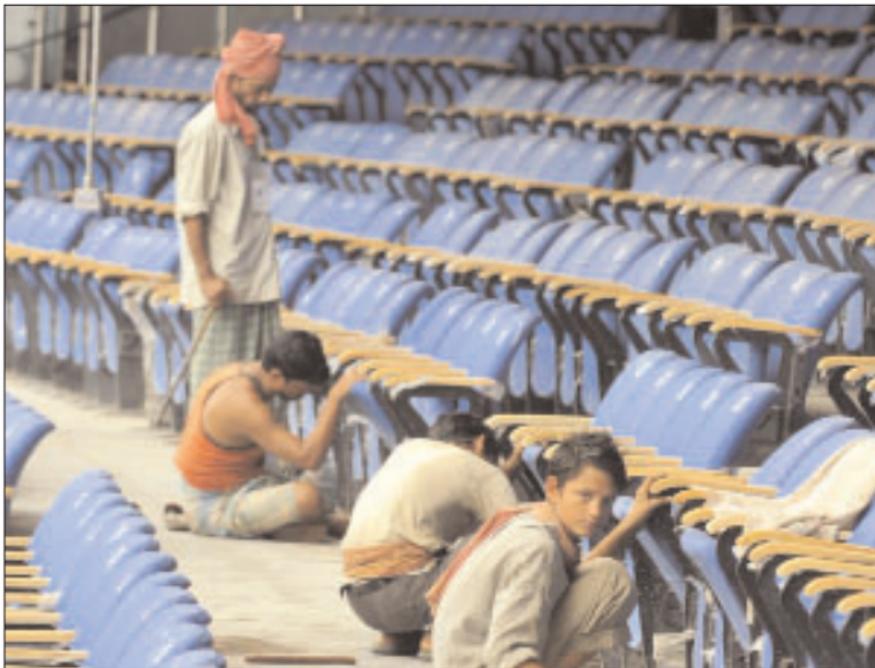
not shameless like Mr. Gill and continue to pray our typical Indian Jugad might just see us save our already blackened face and red ass a little, one more time. I will

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offer a coconut at the nearest Ganpati temple from my side, if we manage to do so. But on a second thought - why can't all these rascals go somewhere and hang themselves instead? Skunks!

However, a serious follow up of the on-

going much published public loot would be crucial to ensure growing India's international clout. The government of India must take the blame for the mess because the entire responsibility of the mess, Urban Development ministry is the apex body to control the various agencies including Indian Olympic Association headed by legendary Suresh Kalmadi. Indian PM owes responsibility to explain the inaction despite media and opposition parties have raised the doubts since last year or so.. UPA chairperson have assured a strict action against guilty but we know how the justice is delivered in India hence keep no hopes there.. Very soon we may locate Kalmadi & Co in a seven star hotel rubbing shoulders with top leadership and media people for the damage control PR exercise to bring calm and sanity, Indian are by and large considered accommodating people hence they will forgive the guilty. But the core question here is that who will pay for the dent of India Inc global brand? The CWG mess will affect India Inc brand, Business environment, it will put Indian diplomacy on the back foot leading to political chaos.



LAST-MINUTE PUSH: WORKERS SETTING A VENUE RIGHT

## Rs 1 lakh crore CWG scam? Will Manmohan Singh speak up

**New Delhi:** Upping the ante over the alleged corruption in Commonwealth Games, the Opposition parties claimed that the scam is to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore. The CWG scam rocked the Parliament, Indian media and people at large.

"The total money involved in CWG scam is Rs 1 lakh crore. I have the documents to prove it," JD-U chief Sharad Yadav said.

"There are so many areas of corruption uncovered," said RJD chief Lalu Yadav amid demands that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh must answer.

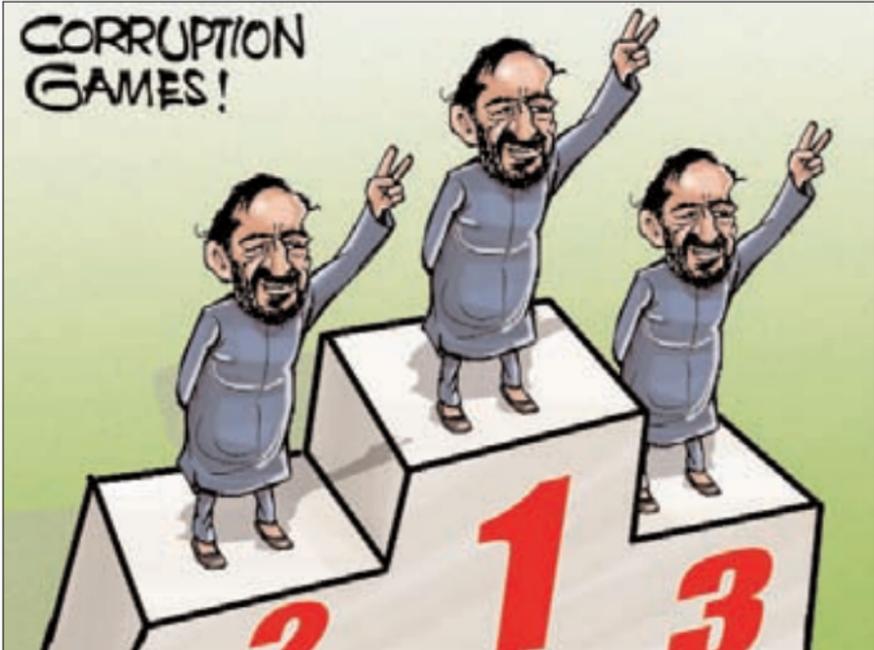
Even as the Opposition aims to target the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government in Parliament over issue of alleged financial irregularities in the Commonwealth Games, fresh

Even as the Opposition aims to target the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government in Parliament over issue of alleged financial irregularities in the Commonwealth Games, fresh allegations have surfaced against Organising Committee Chairman Suresh Kalmadi suggesting he was aware of payments

allegations have surfaced against Organising Committee Chairman Suresh Kalmadi suggesting he was aware of payments made to controversial UK-based firm AM films and its sister concern AM Car and Van Hire.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Thursday said those found guilty of corruption in the upcoming Commonwealth Games will be punished once the event is over. "The Prime Minister is looking into the corruption charges against the Commonwealth Games," said Gandhi, at a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP).

"The Commonwealth Games are not related to any political party or individual. It is a national pride and efforts should be made to hold them successfully," she added.



COURTESY: CARTOONISTSATISH.BLOGSPOT.COM

# Destructive face of CWG 2010 - Kalmadi

As the soon-to-start Commonwealth Games (CWG) is getting mired in one controversy after another and is being flagged as a national shame, people of one village in Karnataka are upset more than anybody else. It's Kalmady, the native place of CWG Organising Committee chief Suresh Kalmadi near Udipi.

Suresh Kalmadi's father and grandfather used to live in this village, but moved out 50 years ago. As Suresh Kalmadi's name has been popping up in the media in connection to the Games, the locals of Kalmady village feel that the name of their village is getting tarnished. "We are not worried about the conduct of the Games, we are perturbed because the name of our village keeps popping up for the wrong reasons on national media every time Suresh

"We disown the name Kalmady attached to a controversial person like Suresh Kalmadi. However, there is one comforting factor that Suresh Kalmadi's surname is being spelt as 'Kalmadi' and not 'Kalmady', the name of our village."

Kalmadi's name is mentioned," said the Kalmady Yuvaka Sangha members.

Former president of the Udipi Town Municipal Council Somashekar Bhat, also a close associate of the new state minister of higher education VS Acharya said, "I feel bad about the controversies surrounding Suresh Kalmadi and CWG. People have been asking me and my party workers about what's been happening." Sudhakar Salian, a political leader in Kalmady told DNA, that he plans to send a letter to the media saying: "We disown the name Kalmady attached to a controversial person like Suresh Kalmadi. However, there is one comforting factor that Suresh Kalmadi's surname is being spelt as 'Kalmadi' and not 'Kalmady', the name of our village."

# 'India has itself to blame for the Commonwealth Games 2010 chaos'

India has only itself to blame for the gigantic mess of the Commonwealth Games, says Mike Hooper, the CEO of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

"We have a host city contract that clearly says that the responsibility for the implementation and delivery of all those promises that were made, all the standards, etc were the Government of India, the Delhi Government and the Organising Committee. We don't have the resources to deliver that. That comes down to the host. We pass on all the rights associated with the games to the host. What we try to do is to support and work with the Organising Committee. But ultimately to get the work done and to do it, that is the responsibility of the stake holders in India," Hooper told NDTV.

The CEO of the Commonwealth Games Federation added, "The buck stops with all the stakeholders. We now hope that between now and October 14, we see a successful celebration of the games."

In this last week, the Athletes' village was found in such filthy condition that a few countries lodged formal complaints with the Organizing Committee. Apartments meant for use by participants and officials were described as "un-liveable." New Zealand has hired its own cleaners to prepare for its contingent's arrival.

Hooper denied stating in the past that the Games Village was better than the one used in Beijing for the Olympics. "we were aware of the filth in the Village on September 15," Hooper said, emphasizing that he went public with details of the unhygienic conditions only after assurances on cleaning up the village were not met. Toilets were found choked with human refuse. One bed had been soiled by a dog.

Hooper also trained his guns on the Indian Sports Minister, MS Gill., describing his "monsoon wedding" remark as unacceptable. He said, "There is a reason why the Games are awarded seven years earlier and that is because there is a huge amount of work to do. The Minister of Sport talks about the monsoon wedding approach. That is unacceptable. The reality is, the venues did not start on time. Had they started earlier, we wouldn't be in half the predicament we've seen in recent months." In July, Gill had said, "Commonwealth Games is like an Indian monsoon wedding. Everything is being done at the last minute."



There is a reason why the Games are awarded seven years earlier and that is because there is a huge amount of work to do. The Minister of Sport talks about the monsoon wedding approach. That is unacceptable. The reality is, the venues did not start on time. Had they started earlier, we wouldn't be in half the predicament we've seen in recent months



# Yawning gap between concept and execution

Now that the commonwealth games are less than a fortnight away and the monsoons showing no signs of abating, the preparations are really going down to the wires. Honestly, I am more than a little confused about whether to support the games or not. At one level, I have started feeling bad for the organisers.

The rains have been so relentless that even those who are well intentioned and want to do a genuinely good job are frustrated. Also, most of us don't want to be embarrassed. But then, I tell myself that some of these jokers, which basically means the top guys in the organising committee and the civic administration and their political masters, have had 7 years to get things ready, and delayed things deliberately to create panic so that no question asked funds are released. So they deserve no mercy.

And then again, the thought creeps up. Why should the nation be embarrassed for the folly of these individuals, especially

But then, I tell myself that some of these jokers, which basically means the top guys in the organising committee and the civic administration and their political masters, have had 7 years to get things ready, and delayed things deliberately to create panic so that no question asked funds are released. So they deserve no mercy.

when we know that those responsible for the mess are thick-skinned?

The Prime Minister and his boss, Sonia

Gandhi, have promised that the guilty will 'not be spared' once the games are over. But do you really believe that one bit? I can almost envision the games being projected as a grand success and in the ensuing euphoria, all would be forgotten, including the fact that what should have cost X has cost us 20 X and that the quality has been shockingly sub-standard, the excessive make up and magical illumination of games venues notwithstanding. Of course, those responsible would move on and perhaps even bid for the Olympics to build on the hugely successful commonwealth games.

While all such issues, be it quality, games a success or not, who's guilty and who's not, etc will be discussed threadbare for times to come, I have a few very basic observations, borne mostly out of my walking and cycling trips all around the city these past few days. I am sharing a few of them very briefly with the intention of getting feedback from you all.

If you are in the car, the newly laid



#### IN TEARING HURRY: LAST-MINUTE WORK IS ON EVERYWHERE

stones on the sidewalks around Delhi look beautiful. But looks can be deceptive. Step out of the car to know what the reality is. I wouldn't be exaggerating if I say one can't walk more than 20 steps before encountering some obstacle. It could be in the form of a broken tile, a missing tile, stump of a discarded light pole, a sudden depression that has been plastered over, or a sudden change in level. If the intention was to provide walkways that care for the pedestrian, it has fallen flat. And the experience is uniform, whether it is VIP areas or areas around the event venues. Even the tactile tiles, that have ostensibly been put to help the blind, as is done in developed world, have been done without a thought. You could end up into a bush or into a pile of debris.

Also, in an attempt to make the sidewalks more disabled friendly, ramps have been built. But like a lot else, it seems to have been done just because they were asked to build a ramp. No thought has gone behind why it needs to be built in a particular way so that it actually helps those in need. There is no uniformity in the gradient or the access points and that is just part of the problem.

Another heartening feature visible, if you are moving around in cars, are the cycle lanes being created at a number of places.

Little excites me as much as this, for I genuinely believe a bicycle is ideal for travelling short distances. But like the sidewalks, their execution leaves hell of a lot to be desired. The lane's width can switch from a few feet to a few inches, and worse, it can often lead to a dead end or into a tree.

Basically what is happening is that all

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these are being done just because some worthwhile thought all this is needed in an international city, without a clue as to how it is to be executed. There is science behind tactile tiles, or the angle at which disabled friendly ramps are to be built, for example,

but it'd be churlish to expect that anyone is even aware of these aspects. It hurts.

It really hurts. How we are being milked can be gauged from the fact that most of those involved in the implementation of these projects have spent considerable amount of taxpayers' money on overseas study tours to learn implementation of such projects. In the absence of any feedback or accountability, one just ends up spending a lot of money with almost zero benefit.

Just some training and awareness could have resulted in creation of civic facilities that Delhi perhaps deserves as the capital of a growing economic power.

But instead, we are creating infrastructure that is neither here nor there. In fact, if one were to sincerely follow the signage put up all over, one could actually get into a spot of bother.

A number of our readers, I am sure, are aware of what is being done and have an opinion on how it should be done. They would have travelled the world too. Would appreciate your feedback and suggestions and put them together to be shared with the authorities. I can only hope this will somehow help in future. It is easy to give up and live with the rot, but then that is taking the easy way out and we don't want that.

(Indian Press reporting on CWG mess, by Rajesh Kalra courtesy TOI)



# CWVG SUCCESS UNDER CLOUD

International press apprehensive of the success of Commonwealth Games

**T**he collapse of a bridge at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru stadium - along with concerns over hygiene and the withdrawal of top athletes - has thrown India's Commonwealth Games into jeopardy. The white plastic canopy stretched over the re-conditioned terraces glowed purple and red. Fresh paint gleamed in the late monsoon rain. The air conditioning and mobile toilets were "first class", said workers. But the crowd outside the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in central Delhi were not there to admire the venue that will host the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in less than two weeks time. They were there to gawp at twisted wreckage - the evidence of the latest disaster to hit the troubled event.

This was billed as the moment when India would stride proudly out on to the world stage. But today saw the 19th Commonwealth Games sinking only further into chaos and recrimination.

Some rooms had been flooded out by monsoon rains. In others showers, air conditioning and electrical sockets were not working, while toilets were described as "filthy". With local press reporting that only 18 of the 34 accommodation blocks were complete, team leaders from England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, Australia and Canada all expressed shock and concern.

It had already been a bad day for the event, even before 23 labourers were injured when a crucial bridge linking the athletes' car park to the main stadium collapsed in the early afternoon. Officials arriving ahead of overseas teams had found rooms in the £150m games village on the outskirts of this city of 17 million people to be "unsafe and unfit for human habitation". This despite the fact that the village is due to open on Thursday.

Some rooms had been flooded out by monsoon rains. In others showers, air conditioning and electrical sockets were not working, while toilets were described as "filthy". With local press reporting that only 18 of the 34 accommodation blocks were complete, team leaders from England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, Australia and Canada all expressed shock and concern.

Craig Hunter, England's chef de mission, revealed he was calling for safety assurances from the organisers. "It's hard



**UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTION:** KALMADI AND DEPUTY LALIT BHANOT DURING A PRESS MEET

to cancel an event of this magnitude but we are close to the wire, and teams may start to take things into their own hands," he told the Press Association. "Athletes will start getting on planes soon and decisions will have to be made. We need new levels of reassurance."

Some even threw doubt on whether the games could go ahead. New Zealand's chief de mission, Dave Currie, said: "The way things are looking, it's not up to scratch. The reality is that if the village is not ready and athletes can't come, the implications are that it's not going to happen." The Commonwealth Games Federation president, Michael Fennell, described the whole two-week event as "seriously compromised".

His words came as little surprise to observers. The list of problems has lengthened over recent weeks to include corruption scandals, huge cost overruns, shoddy construction that means completed facilities with leaky roofs or subsiding floors. International sports events in any country routinely attract negative press in the runup - see the fuss in South Africa earlier this year - only for the warnings to come to nothing.

But on this occasion it is likely that many projects will simply not be finished at all. The problems are manifest. Holes dug ubiq-

uitously in an effort to "beautify" the Indian capital - millions of pot plants were to be planted - have contributed to an outbreak of dengue fever. The holes were left unfilled, stagnant water collected and mosquitos bred in their millions.

The fears now are more serious than simply being left with piles of unsold vuvuzelas - tens of thousands have been produced - and mascots. Government officials are investigating allegations that safety certificates for some buildings were falsified to cover up the use of cheaper sub-standard materials.

India's weightlifting team has been hit by a doping scandal. Sponsors have pulled out. There is no sign of the hundreds of thousands of tourists expected to flow through the city's rebuilt airport, nor of the approach roads that were going to link its

new £1.2bn terminal to the city. Top athletes - and the Queen - will be absent although Prince Charles said yesterday he would be attending. Only last night two top English athletes - Olympic 400m champion Christine Ohuruogu, and 1500m runner Lisa Dobrisky pulled out of the games. Triple jumper Phillips Idowu also wrote on his Twitter page that he would not be going to Delhi, citing safety concerns although his agent said later that no firm decision had been made.

"It is quite simple: we have to hope for a miracle. Otherwise we are facing national disgrace," said Boria Majumdar, an Indian sports historian and author of *Sellotape Legacy: Delhi and the Commonwealth Games*. "The glare of the world's cameras is upon us."

The fears now are more serious than simply being left with piles of unsold vuvuzelas - tens of thousands have been produced - and mascots. Government officials are investigating allegations that safety certificates for some buildings were falsified to cover up the use of cheaper substandard materials.

One leading Delhi architect blamed a "lack of oversight" for the collapse of the bridge. "These are sensitive structures. They can be done in a hurry but they have to be done well. There has to be very close



**YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:** QUEEN ELIZABETH HANDS OVER THE CWG BATON TO INDIAN PRESIDENT PRATIBHA PATIL

supervision," Kuldip Singh said as he joined those who avoided stick-wielding policemen to throng a road bridge with a view of the site of the collapse.

There are also concerns about a terrorist attack. Last weekend two tourists were wounded when their bus was attacked by gunmen in north Delhi. Extra security ordered for the games stadia has now been diverted to prominent tourist sites. How different this all looked earlier this year, when headlines in local newspapers about the games, won by Delhi in 2003, were universally positive.

Delhi was "adding world-class facilities and slick services" that would "leave visitors awestruck", said news magazine Outlook. The comparison with the 2008 Beijing Olympics, watched with jealousy and some respect in India, was, if not always explicit, evident. Some spoke of a possible Olympic bid for 2020.

But as progressive deadlines have gone by and the problems have mounted, the media has turned on the event and on the administrators and politicians, many from the ruling Congress party. "If we had not given it to these nincompoops then we

Some rooms had been flooded out by monsoon rains. In others showers, air conditioning and electrical sockets were not working, while toilets were described as "filthy". With local press reporting that only 18 of the 34 accommodation blocks were complete, team leaders from England, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand, Australia and Canada all expressed shock and concern.

would not be as ashamed as we might be going to be," Outlook editor Vinod Mehta said.

"We just shouldn't have taken it on the Queen's not coming, nor are top athletes. It's a lose-lose situation. We've got better things to do."

The forced resettlement of more than 100,000 slum dwellers and the closure or demolition of schools seen as eyesores have also prompted criticism, as has the rising cost of the games. The event is now thought to be likely to cost around £2bn, up to 10 times some original estimates. Chetan Baghat, India's top-selling author with a huge youth following, called the event a "loofest".

"The CWG 2010 is, by far, the biggest and most blatant exercise in corruption in independent India's history," Baghat wrote in a recent editorial. "Not only have they stolen public money, they've made a mess of the job at hand."

Yet on the streets around Nehru stadium, little of the bitterness and scepticism was evident. Standing at the crowded bus stands, waiting for often decrepit, overcrowded buses, commuters unanimously

voiced their support for the event and their country. "The games will definitely get India name and fame," said SK Najpal, a 58-year-old civil servant. "There are some hurdles, but don't worry. These foreign athletes should be less panicky. I have seen plague in Delhi and it didn't kill me. The games will be a big win for India."

Suggestions that the event might even be cancelled were met with blank astonishment. "That would be very, very, very upsetting," said 18-year-old Deepak Singh. For student Chandra Prarthana, the games were "a matter of pride" for India: "People think we are still a nation of snake charmers. We will have a good and successful games and the world will see our country as it really is."

**Athens Olympics** With four years to go, a new organising committee was installed amid serious concerns from the IOC. In a manic race against time, major venues and infrastructure projects, including tram and road links that were well behind schedule, were only just completed in time.

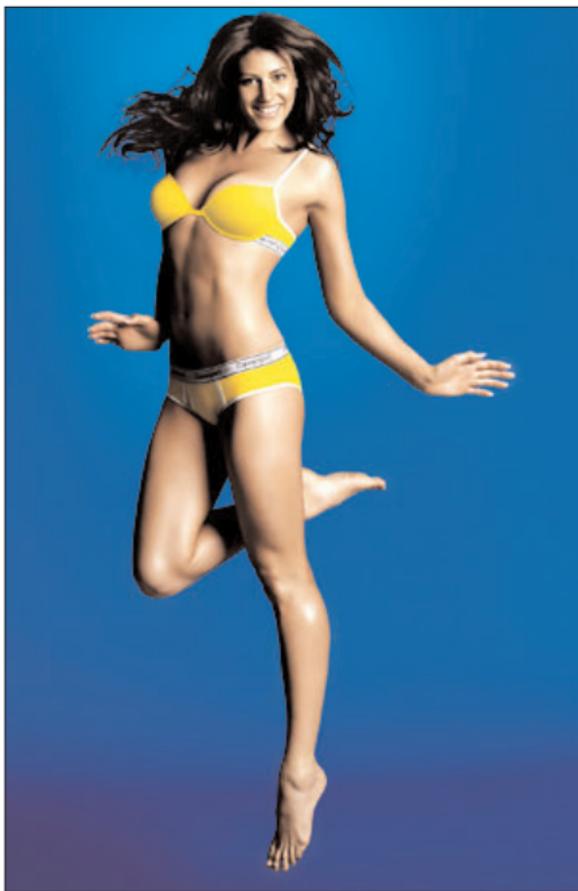
Organising Committee vice-president Randhir Singh said there was "no problem" and described the buildings as "perfect". He added: "We still have two days for the teams to come and the situation will be under control.

"The buildings are perfect, they've all appreciated, and 24 hours is a long time and we will organise it."

#### Troubled games

**South Africa World Cup** There was an avalanche of conjecture about security, ticket sales, stadiums and transport. It reached a fever pitch around the time that the Togo team bus was attacked at the Africa Nations Cup, although organisers argued with some justification that there was no connection between the two events. Visitor numbers were down as a result of perceived high prices and safety fears. With weeks to go, there was a last-minute push to sell tickets. As it was, the event was celebrated as a huge success within South Africa.

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**NOTED ABSENTEE:** AUSTRALIAN SWIMMER STEPHANIE RICE

manic race against time, major venues and infrastructure projects, including tram and road links that were well behind schedule, were only just completed in time. There was a spate of deaths among construction workers and a series of strikes threatened to cause chaos. In some cases, buildings were finished with just days to spare and competitors and spectators arrived to find landscaping and finishing touches still being applied.

**Beijing Olympics** With a year to go, IOC president Jacques Rogge suggested some events may have to be cancelled due to the poor air quality, while the torch relay that preceded the games was targeted by pro-

testers. Now, the 2008 Games are chiefly remembered for their spectacular opening ceremony, the glut of golds for Team GB and the arrival of Usain Bolt on the world stage.

**Vancouver Winter Olympics** Just two days in, transport links were not working, a Georgian luge slider was killed and events were cancelled because there was too much snow and ice at some venues and not enough at others. But the infectious excitement in the host city at a string of Canadian medals and the warm welcome afforded spectators overcame those early concerns and the organisers were roundly praised at the end.

**Jason Burke in Delhi**



**SECOND ACT:** MEMBERS OF PRIME MINISTER NAOTO KAN'S SECOND CABINET POSE AFTER THEIR FIRST MEETING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

# Japan political turmoil: Naoto Kan in charge

Kan replaces over half of his Cabinet, Prime minister makes bold move in shutting out Ozawa's influence

Prashant Tewari

**F**resh off his re-election as president of the Democratic Party of Japan, Prime Minister Naoto Kan reshuffled his 3-month-old Cabinet on Friday, replacing 10 of the 17 Cabinet posts and naming few people loyal to party bigwig Ichiro Ozawa.

Before DPJ presidential race in which Ozawa, a former party secretary general,

lost to Kan, the two had agreed to foster party unity regardless of the outcome, but many of the key roles in the government and the DPJ executive lineup went to people known to be critical of Ozawa.

Highlights of the lineup are the move for Seiji Maehara from transport minister to foreign minister and the naming of non-Diet member Yoshihiro Katayama, former Tottori governor and currently a Keio University professor, as internal affairs minister.

Maehara's appointment hit a snag because he is viewed as a "China hawk," party sources said, adding that some members were concerned it could further aggravate Tokyo's ties with Beijing.

As transport minister, who oversees the Japan Coast Guard, Maehara was responsible for the recent arrest of the skipper of a Chinese fishing boat that collided with coast guard patrol vessels near the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.



**IN SADDLE:** NAOTO KAN

Other new faces include Sumio Mabuchi as transport minister, Ritsuo Hosokawa as health minister; Michihiko Kano as agriculture minister and Ryu Matsumoto as environment minister. They are all DPJ Lower House members.

From the party's Upper House caucus, Minoru Yanagida was named justice minister and Tomiko Okazaki was made chairman of the National Public Safety Commission.

Meanwhile, Kan retained his right-hand man, Yoshito Sengoku, as chief Cabinet secretary; Toshimi Kitazawa as defense minister; Renho as government revitalization minister; Yoshihiko Noda as finance minister; and Shozaburo Jimi as financial services minister. Renho now doubles as minister in charge of civil service reform.

Although many in the new lineup have distanced themselves from the Ozawa camp, Banri Kaieda, who was named economic and fiscal policy minister, has good ties with

Before reshuffling his Cabinet, Kan in the morning named new DPJ executives, giving the post of secretary general - the DPJ's No. 2 position - to Katsuya Okada, who previously held the post of foreign minister.

Ozawa. So do Akihiro Ohata, a Lower House member who was appointed trade minister, and Yoshiaki Takaki, another Lower House member who was named education minis-

ter.

Kan's reshuffled Cabinet was formally launched later in the day following an attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace.

Before reshuffling his Cabinet, Kan in the morning named new DPJ executives, giving the post of secretary general - the DPJ's No. 2 position - to Katsuya Okada, who previously held the post of foreign minister.

The appointment of Okada, who sports a "clean image" and has been critical of Ozawa over his political funds scandal, is thought to signal Kan's desire to put his own stamp on the politic landscape and reduce the influence of Ozawa, who leads the biggest intraparty group.

Ozawa fought a fierce battle against Kan as his sole challenger in the party presidential race, raising fears of an internal split.

The focus of the personnel reshuffle, therefore, was on how Kan would treat



**CHALLENGER:** ICHIRO OZAWA

Ozawa and people loyal to him to achieve party unity.

In fact, Kan on Thursday night offered posts as deputy party president - a largely nominal post - to two people in the Ozawa camp - Ozawa himself and Azuma Koshiishi, the leader of the DPJ's Upper House caucus. But both declined Kan's offer, party sources said.

It remains to be seen if Kan's new picks will manage to mend ties with the Ozawa camp. Political observers say, in the worst case, there is still the threat of an internal split.

As for other senior DPJ posts, Koichiro Genba retained his post as policy chief. Yoshio Hachiro, who was a key member of Kan's election campaign in Tuesday's presidential race, was appointed Diet affairs chief.

"With the presidential election over, I promise to create a Cabinet of all 412 (DPJ) lawmakers of the Lower and Upper houses as well as coalition partner Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party)," Kan said during a gathering of party Diet members.

Okada, meanwhile, said he will aim for

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fair and transparent management of the party.

"I would like to manage the party so that individual lawmakers can freely demonstrate their ability," he said. "I would like to run the party based on fairness and transparency."

Despite widespread rumors that the Ozawa camp was critical of Okada's appointment, no opposition was voiced Friday.

"I would like to support the prime minister and the new administration with everyone else," said Mieko Tanaka, a rookie DPJ lawmaker dubbed one of the "Ozawa girls" handpicked by the power broker to run for the Diet.

"I hope Mr. Okada will make the best of his experience and lead the party," she said.

Criticism appeared to have shifted to the appointment of Okada's predecessor, Yukio Edano, who was rapped for staying on as deputy secretary general after the party suffered a major defeat in the July Upper House election.

"Some may feel uncomfortable" about Edano's appointment, said DPJ senior

## CABINET LINEUP



Prime minister | **NAOTO KAN**

Internal affairs and communications minister | **YOSHIHIRO KATAYAMA**

Justice minister, state minister in charge of the abduction issue | **MINORU YANAGIDA**

Foreign minister | **SEJI MAEHARA**

Finance minister | **YOSHIHIKO NODA**

Education, culture, sports, science and technology minister | **YOSHIKI TAKAKI**

Health, labor and welfare minister | **RITSUO HOSOKAWA**

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister | **MICHIHIKO KANO**

Economy, trade and industry minister | **AKIHIRO OHATA**

Land, infrastructure, transport and tourism minister, state minister

for Okinawa, affairs related to the

Northern Territories | **SUMIO MABUCHI**

Environment minister, state minister in charge of disaster management | **RYU MATSUMOTO**

Defense minister | **TOSHIMI KITAZAWA**

Chief Cabinet secretary | **YOSHITO SENGOKU**

National Public Safety Commission chairwoman, state minister in charge

of consumer affairs, food safety, declining birthrate and gender equality | **TOMIKO OKAZAKI**

State minister in charge of postal reform and financial services | **SHOZABURO JIMI**

State minister in charge of economic and fiscal policy, and science and technology policy | **BANRI KAIEDA**

State minister in charge of national policy | **KOICHIRO GENBA**

State minister in charge of government revitalization and civil service reform | **RENHO**

Deputy chief Cabinet secretaries | **MOTOHISA FURUKAWA, TETSURO FUKUYAMA, KINYA TAKINO**

Director general of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau | **SHINICHIRO KAJITA**



NAOTO KAN (LEFT) AND KATAYAMA

lawmaker Hajime Ishii, although he added it is up to Okada to pick who he wants to work with.

Taking the podium following the announcement of his victory against Ichiro Ozawa in the Democratic Party of Japan recently held presidential election, Prime Minister Naoto Kan called for party unity and promised that now the Battle is over, "there were no sides." But Kan's new Cabinet and party leadership lineup announced Friday indicates a continued shift away from Ozawa, the party heavyweight often dubbed the "shadow shogun" for his political clout and penchant for backroom deals, with virtually no lawmakers from Ozawa's camp granted important posts.

Observers say the prime minister made a

Before reshuffling his Cabinet, Kan in the morning named new DPJ executives, giving the post of secretary general - the DPJ's No. 2 position - to Katsuya Okada, who previously held the post of foreign minister.

bold move by shutting out Ozawa's influence and siding with the popular voice resenting Ozawa's style of old-school money politics and sticking with his promise of striving for scandal-free "clean" politics.

"I believe it was quite an audacious decision on Kan's behalf," said Toyo University political science professor Satoru Matsubara.

He said Kan's resolve to move further away from Ozawa was illustrated by his reappointment of Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku, Kan's old ally and right-hand man, and shifting Katsuya Okada from foreign minister to the post of DPJ secretary general.

"Both of them have kept their distance from Ozawa - Kan has cemented the

nucleus of both the government and the party with 'anti-Ozawa' lawmakers," Matsubara said.

Former DPJ Secretary General Yukio Edano, another lawmaker critical of Ozawa and who was demoted to take the blame for the party's losses in the July Upper House election, was assigned the post of deputy secretary general.

And with the reappointment of Koichiro Genba as the DPJ's policy affairs chief - along with also being named minister in charge of national strategy - and Okada ally Yoshio Hachiro assuming the post of Diet affairs chief, the DPJ leadership now consists of lawmakers who have all kept their distance from Ozawa.

Matsubara said Kan's decision was likely backed by the high approval ratings he enjoyed during the DPJ presidential campaign, and from the results of the votes, which indicated his overwhelming support among the estimated 350,000 general party members.

"Rather than striving for so-called party unity, Kan and Sengoku have placed their bets that they can depart from everything 'Ozawa-like' and pull through with the backing of the popular will," he said.

Tomooki Iwai, political science professor at Nihon University, gave satisfactory marks to the new lineup and said he believes it represents a clear departure from Ozawa.

While several Cabinet members have been reappointed, including the popular administrative reform minister Renho, and postal reform minister Shozaburo Jimi from DPJ coalition partner Kokumin Shinto (People's New Party), Iwai said it makes sense considering that Kan's administration was launched only three months ago.

"The reappointments are the result of an emphasis on continuity," Iwai said.

He said one of the highlights in the new Cabinet may be the appointment of Yoshihiro Katayama, former governor of Tottori Prefecture and now a professor at Keio University graduate school, to the post of internal affairs minister.

"Katayama has been involved in regional governance and has been an advocate of decentralizing power - he knows the reality of the situation," he said.

Iwai, however, said he believes Chief Cabinet Secretary Sengoku probably had much say in deciding the Cabinet and new party lineup, and it is more of a "Sengoku Cabinet" than Kan's.

"Sengoku seems to be taking the initiative" in personnel decisions, Iwai said.

But he pointed out that another reason for the lack of lawmakers from Ozawa's group in important Cabinet and party posts

is the simple fact that most of Ozawa's followers are either young rookies without sufficient experience, or those adept at political infighting rather than policymaking.

Kazuaki Tanaka, a political science professor at Takushoku University, agreed, saying Ozawa's camp lacks the personnel for high-rank posts.

"Ozawa has a tendency of cutting ties with those with whom he has worked closely," Tanaka said, citing how even ex-Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, a longtime friend of Ozawa, severed ties with him.

"So inevitably, there aren't many seasoned, policy-savvy politicians in Ozawa's

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group to begin with," he said.

Matsubara of Toyo University said that while he expects Ozawa to remain quiet for now, he believes the power broker may cause ripples again if the Kan administration faces a political deadlock when deliberating budget-related bills at the end of the fiscal year. The budget-related bills are necessary to implement the fiscal 2011 budget.

"At that point Ozawa could initiate a political realignment by splitting the party... but I believe he will remain still until then," he said.

But Tanaka of Takushoku University said that with the mounting economic issues facing the nation, the new team has no time to worry about possible future backlashes from Ozawa's camp and should prioritize rebuilding the nation above all else.

With the DPJ lacking an Upper House majority and a Diet session set to convene next month, the new Cabinet and party leadership are bound to encounter difficulties trying to win support from the opposition to pass legislation.

## Numerous diplomatic issues loom

### US and China pose different but serious challenges

Not known for his diplomatic skills, it's unclear how Prime Minister Naoto Kan will deal with pressing international issues, even with a major Cabinet reshuffle Friday.

One of the most urgent policy tasks facing the prime minister is shoring up shaky Japan-U.S. relations, that if unsuccessful, could cost him his job, critics say.

Japan-U.S. relations have hit a snag over the controversial relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, to the Henoko district in Nago in the northern part of the island.

Takashi Kawakami, a professor of security issues at Takushoku University, believes the government has no choice but to shelve the Futenma issue for now to focus on a more comprehensive survey of the Japan-U.S. alliance.

The two governments must, the professor said, improve relations by November, when President Barack Obama is expected to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting in Yokohama.

"The real main task is to shelve the Futenma issue and further deepen, or return, Japan-U.S. relations to what they were, and create a soft landing for President Obama's visit to Japan," Kawakami said, adding that the government meanwhile is also likely to carry on a pro forma dialogue with Okinawa's residents.

Together with Kan, newly appointed Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara and reappointed Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa hold the key to better Japan-U.S. relations.

Maehara, who served as the minister in charge of Okinawan affairs in the previous Cabinet, is an expert on security matters, but as a hawk on China he is also sparking worry about how he will deal with Beijing.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku, however, brushed aside such concerns.

# IT IS TIME TO CONSOLIDATE INDO-JAPAN RELATIONS

**Polity:** There is tremendous political similarity between two nations; it should be highlighted at the people to people level wherein the current focus is restricted to G2G. The specific information about government, parliamentary procedure, analysis of critical legislation must be regularly promoted in respective territories.

**Diplomacy:** Introduce innovative tools in Diplomacy to reach out bottom of pyramid in India for wider impact. Furthermore, India and Japan should forge a strategic diplomatic alliance to enter in new territories like Africa and South America. It will bring broader platform to operate for both countries hence strategically promoting respective influence and business.

**Business:** India and Japan should work to exploit respective strengths for creating real time impact. India is having a huge domestic market to offer for high quality Japan manufacturing in-

dustry hence the core of the entire plan should be restricted on this premise. Furthermore, together India and Japan can tap new markets and overpower existing global competition. Indian

strength in English language, Information technology, high skilled talented pool of Medical and Engineering students, global reach via its presence of Indian origin people should be leveraged by Japanese private industry wherein Japan Embassy in India should play a role of catalyst by integrating tacit support of Japanese private sector.

**Tourism:** It will remain one way traffic wherein commercial promotion of encouraging Indian tourist to Japan should not be focused instead Japan tourist traffic to India should be encouraged.



Indian students and scientific community should be encouraged to visit Japan via strategic alliance between Universities and private sector / government participation.

"I don't think Mr. Maehara is fixated on his ideas," Sengoku told a news conference in the afternoon. "I believe his diplomacy will be extremely pragmatic."

But the situation was complicated by the recent victory of antibase candidates in a Nago Municipal Assembly election.

The Okinawa gubernatorial election in November will likely be decisive in determining the course of the Futenma relocation.

Because the U.S. recognizes that the will of the Okinawan people can't be ignored and that it can't force a base relocation upon them, Washington and Tokyo are likely willing to temporize, Kawakami said.

"It is not about being able or not being able to shelve Futenma to deepen bilateral ties - Japan and U.S. authorities have finally begun to understand that the bilateral alliance is on the line," Kawakami said. "But if Prime Minister Kan fails, it's possible that his government could crumble."

Critics agree that China's rise is another major issue testing the Japan-U.S. security alliance.

Current Japan-China relations are strained over the arrest of a Chinese ship captain following recent collisions around the disputed Senkaku Islands.

"It is not about being able or not being able to shelve Futenma to deepen bilateral ties - Japan and U.S. authorities have finally begun to understand that the bilateral alliance is on the line," Kawakami said. "But if Prime Minister Kan fails, it's possible that his government could crumble."

The Senkaku islets, under Japan's administrative control, are a source of diplomatic disputes with China and Taiwan, with both claiming sovereignty over them.

Motofumi Asai, president of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, points out that at the time of the signing of the revised Japan-U.S. security treaty 50 years ago, the perceived threats were the Soviet Union and communist China. The view held by Japan and the U.S. that China remains

a "potential threat" is too narrow, he said.

"China is not what it was in 1960 and we need to take another close look at China," Asai said. "China has become the No. 2 economy in the world and strongly influences the global economy . . . and it is nonsense to just see China from a militaristic viewpoint. We need to look at it comprehensively including economically, politically, militarily and culturally."

For Kan and Maehara, a major diplomatic event is just around the corner - next week's United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Maehara's predecessor, Katsuya Okada, had been keen on attending but gave in to Kan's pleas to help reunite the Democratic Party of Japan, which has been split over the recent presidential race between Kan and DPJ heavyweight Ichiro Ozawa.

A former Foreign Ministry bureaucrat, Asai expressed deep concern over the DPJ's diplomatic moves, including changing foreign ministers right before an important international event because of internal problems.

"Japanese diplomacy is in a critical state," Asai said. "Although unintended, Kan has shown that he considers diplomacy less important" than internal disputes.

## Profiles of the top three DPJ executives



**OKADA NAMED NO. 2:** Katsuya Okada, the new secretary general of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan, is known as an expert on foreign affairs and other policy matters, but he is often described as "fundamentalist" for the tenacity with which he sticks to his beliefs.

Although he is something of a maverick in the 12-year-old party and had hoped to stay on as foreign minister, the 57-year-old Okada will need to bring unity to the party split by Tuesday's leadership election.

In announcing his acceptance of the party's No. 2 post offered by Prime Minister Naoto Kan, he said it was "heaven's will." He backed the prime minister in Tuesday's contest, in which Kan was re-elected DPJ leader by a narrow majority in terms of votes from fellow Diet members.

After assuming the post of foreign minister last September, Okada won acclaim by quickly ordering the ministry to look into a secret Japan-U.S. pact regarding the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan. But he is partly to blame for creating chaos over the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture in the Cabinet of then Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who abruptly resigned in June amid sagging voter support, partly due to the base dispute.

**GENBA, POLICY CHIEF:** Koichiro Genba retained his post as the DPJ's policy chief. He is considered a prospective next-generation political leader and has been an advocate of fiscal rehabilitation. The 46-year-old Lower House member from the Fukushima No. 3 district set up a study group on government finances in May. He believes in shoring up the country's tattered public finances through an increase in the consumption tax. Genba was first elected to the Lower House in 1993. He joined the DPJ in 1998.



**HACHIRO AS DIET CHIEF:** Yoshio Hachiro, new chairman of the DPJ's Diet Affairs Committee, previously served in the same post when the party was in the opposition.

The manner in which he dealt with the ruling camp led by the LDP - marked by his unwillingness to compromise - led to criticism from some within the DPJ that he was taking too hard of a line. He will be tasked with steering the divided Diet.

The LDP's new front line:  
State of opposition party

**Tokyo :** The main opposition Liberal Democratic Party chose new party executives: LDP President Sadakazu Tanigaki tapped former infrastructure and transport minister Nobuteru Ishihara as secretary general, the party's No. 2 post, and former environment and defense minister Yukio Koike as head of the party's General Council and retained former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba as head of the party's Policy Research Council.

The three are well-versed in policy matters and well-known in public because of their TV appearances. In their 50s, they also represent a younger generation of LDP lawmakers. (Mr. Tadamori Oshima, 63, was moved from secretary general to the more honorary post of vice president.) Ms. Koike is the first woman to assume a top LDP executive post.

Mr. Tanigaki, who became LDP president a year ago, has been criticized for what some say is his inability to sell the LDP to people. Through the new leadership setup,



**FIGHTING BACK: TANIGAKI**

he apparently aims to improve the party's image and create the impression that the LDP is reliable in policy matters.

The new trio at the leadership lacks experience in maneuvering in the Diet and in organizing election campaigns. It is uncer-

tain whether they can build cooperative relations with other opposition parties, although the fact that they are familiar with some lawmakers of the Democratic Party of Japan may help them deal with the ruling party.

The LDP faces a big problem. Overshadowed by the DPJ's presidential race in which Prime Minister Naoto Kan was re-elected leader, the LDP cannot get enough attention from people. It needs to present policy proposals that are attractive and convincing. As a party with long experience in governing, the LDP also has the responsibility of deepening Diet discussions.

Although the LDP won more seats than the DPJ in the Upper House election, it ended up behind the DPJ in the number of total votes garnered in election districts as well as in proportional representation contests. The new LDP leadership faces the difficult task of regaining people's trust.

*Courtesy Japan Press*

## THEY HOLD THE KEY...



KAN CASTS HIS VOTE ALONG WITH HIS WIFE

**PRIME MINISTER**  
**NAOTO KAN**

**Date of birth:** Oct. 10, 1946

**Party:** DPJ

**Electoral district:** Lower House; Tokyo No. 18 (10th term)  
 Kan, who began his political career as a civic activist in the 1970s, is the first prime minister since Tomiichi Murayama to hail from an ordinary family without immediate ties to politicians. Known for his experience in fighting bureaucrats - most notably over the HIV-tainted blood products debacle as health minister in 1996 - Kan has been considered a likely successor to Yukio Hatoyama since the DPJ took power last year.

While serving in key positions as deputy prime minister and finance minister, Kan appeared to have kept a low profile during the Hatoyama administration, but was quick to throw his hat into the DPJ presidential race once Hatoyama announced his resignation. A graduate of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Kan was first elected into the Lower House in 1980 from a tiny opposition party after running unsuccessfully in three national elections.

Kan formed the original version of the DPJ in 1996 with Hatoyama and others. After creating the current incarnation of the DPJ in 1998, he served twice as leader of the then main opposition party.

**FINANCE MINISTER**  
**YOSHIHIKO NODA**

**Date of birth:** May 20, 1957

**Party:** Democratic Party of Japan

**Electoral district:** Lower House; Chiba No. 4 (fifth term)

Retaining his portfolio, Noda was first named finance minister when Naoto Kan left the post to become prime minister in June. He acted as senior vice finance minister when the DPJ took office last September.

Along with Seiji Maehara, Noda is one of the leaders of an in-party group critical of DPJ kingpin Ichiro Ozawa.

Before his finance posts, Noda served as the DPJ's Diet affairs chief and head of public relations.

Born in Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture, he graduated from Waseda University and later from the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management. He won a prefectural assembly seat in 1987 at age 29.

He joined the Japan New Party in 1992 led by Morihiro Hosokawa, who later became prime minister. Noda was first elected to the Lower House in 1993.


**SEIJI MAEHARA**

**Date of birth:** April 30, 1962

**Party:** Democratic Party of Japan

**Electoral district:** Lower House; Kyoto No. 2 (sixth term)

Maehara served as transport minister under Yukio Hatoyama and in Naoto Kan's first Cabinet. He backed Kan in the DPJ presidential election earlier this week. As transport minister, he has dealt with tough issues, including the Japan Airlines bankruptcy. He has also come up with bold policies, such as converting Tokyo's Haneda airport into a 24-hour international hub and cutting the public works budget by some 18 percent. Maehara is a vocal critic of DPJ kingpin Ichiro Ozawa and has openly criticized him over his money scandals and his decision to challenge Kan. He is known as a strong supporter of the Japan-U.S. security alliance and has lashed out at Ozawa's desire to put Tokyo on a more independent path from Washington.

He started his political career in the Kyoto Prefectural Assembly.





## Japan financial mess: Long battle in currency markets

Recent intervention in the currency market by the government and the Bank of Japan to prevent a further rise of the yen against the dollar - the first in 6 1/2 years - appears to have worked, at least temporarily. It was as if the government and the BOJ had been waiting for a chance to intervene. They acted right after Prime Minister Naoto Kan had been re-elected chief of the Democratic Party of Japan and the yen had risen to ¥82.80 against the dollar.

To further push an easy money policy and help prevent the yen from strengthening, the BOJ also decided not to intervene in the "sterilization" process - that is, it refrained from selling national bonds and carrying out other operations to recover the yen that had found its way into the market as a result of yen selling and dollar buying.

The intervention Tuesday succeeded in lowering the yen's value by more than

This concern is not likely to fade soon. Depending on the next moves by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the results of the BOJ's tankan survey of corporate conditions, the yen may strengthen again. The fact that Japan could not get the U.S. and Europe to act in concert with its intervention in currency markets bolsters the view that market pressure for a strong yen are likely to remain.

¥2 against the dollar. But what the government and the central bank face is not a short-term problem. They must prepare themselves for a possibly long battle in which they'll have to steer adroitly through the treacherous waters of foreign currency markets.

The big factor behind the strong yen is worries about a downturn in the U.S. and Europe. This concern is not likely to fade soon. Depending on the next moves by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the results of the BOJ's tankan survey of corporate conditions, the yen may strengthen again. The fact that Japan could not get the U.S. and Europe to act in concert with its intervention in currency markets bolsters the view that market pressure for a strong yen are likely to remain.

All Japan was able to do was to ask the U.S. and Europe not to complain when it intervenes in the currency trade. The U.S. and Europe would like to increase their exports by way of

## Why is currency sharply rising?

### What is happening in the global markets?

Heightened concerns about the U.S. economic outlook have triggered a flight of funds from the United States, Europe and emerging economies to the yen, which is regarded as a relatively safe asset. That is why the yen's appreciation is gathering steam.

### Why does the yen attract safety-oriented funds?

Japan's financial system was less impacted by the so-called Lehman shock than those in the United States and Europe. In addition, Japan has a large surplus in the current balance of payments. Japan's huge fiscal deficit is not widely seen as a problem for the time being because it is financed mostly by domestic funds.

### Is this "Japan-buying"?

Not necessarily. The yen is just a temporary shelter for overseas funds. Stocks are still falling amid active purchases of Japanese government bonds. Once global jitters subside, those funds are likely to return to emerging and other economies with higher growth potential.

### What effects does a strong yen have on the economy?

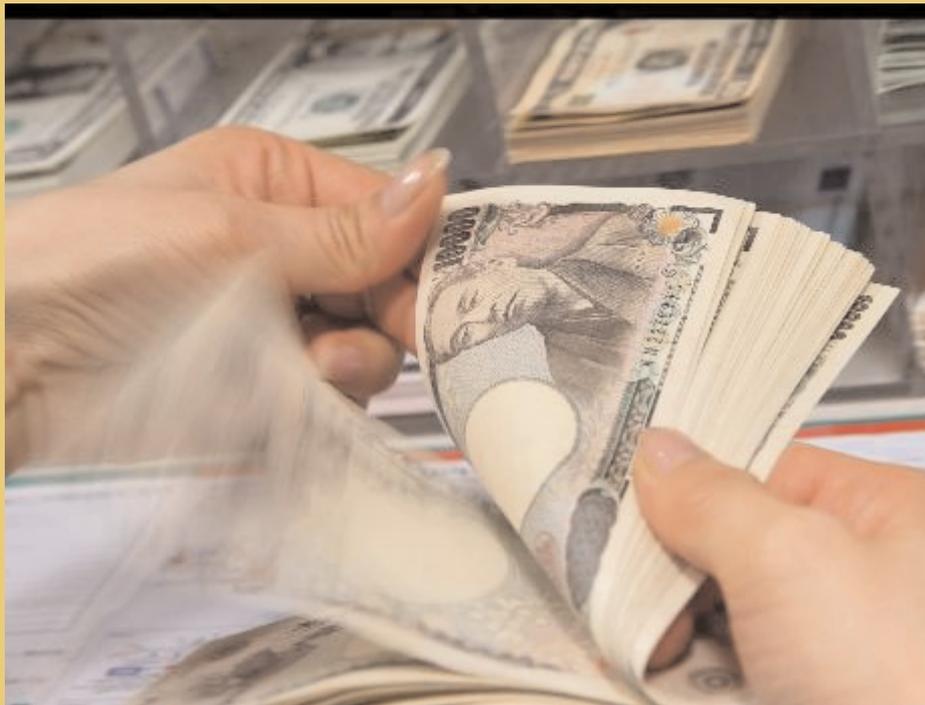
While the economy has made an export-driven recovery, a strong yen hurts Japanese exporters' overseas profits when

## Q&A

repatriated and causes stocks to decline. A strong yen leads to lower prices of imports, but this could contribute to further deflation.

### How long is the yen's appreciation expected to continue?

The United States and Europe are unlikely to tolerate rises in the dollar and the euro as they want to promote exports amid unfavorable domestic economic conditions. The yen's strength against the dollar is expected to continue for some time.



### Will the yen appreciate further to a new all-time high?

A rise above the current record high of ¥79.75 against the dollar set in April 1995 is coming into sight.

relatively weaker currencies. At the very least, there should be tacit agreement among Japan, the U.S. and Europe about an appropriate level of yen value. The government and the BOJ must act carefully so that market intervention will not invite speculative buying of the yen.

### Currency intervention at last

The government and the Bank of Japan sent a strong message to foreign currency markets Wednesday by intervening in the currency trade for the first time since March 2004, to stem the rise in the value of the yen against the dollar. This was a surprise move because Prime Minister Naoto Kan had been considered reluctant to intervene in the currency market (in contrast to Mr. Ichiro Ozawa, former Democratic Party of Japan secretary general, who lost the party presidential race to Mr. Kan on Tuesday).

Unilateral yen-selling, dollar-buying intervention on Japan's part was conducted after the yen traded at ¥82.80 to the dollar, a 15-year-and-four-month high, at one point Wednesday morning. After the intervention, the dollar rose above ¥85.

A steep rise in the yen's value could seriously damage the economy by reducing Japanese exporters' revenues - thus leading to a hollowing out of manufacturing sectors - and by causing stock price falls. The government and the BOJ should show strong determination in stemming an excessively strong yen by taking necessary additional steps.

One difficulty Japan faces is that unilateral intervention has its limits, and that there is little prospect of concerted market intervention by Japan, the United States and Europe. Both the U.S. and Europe are worried about their own economic downturns and prefer to see lower

values for their currencies.

Yet, stable currency markets are indispensable for sustainable growth of the world economy. At international forums, Japan should call for cooperation and stress the dangers from any sort of competition to reduce currency values.

As a long-term goal, Japan should make efforts to turn its economy into one that can survive a strong yen.

The Kan administration should vigorously push its policy of strengthening eco-friendly and energy-saving industries and industries related to medical services and nursing care to create new jobs, thus increasing domestic demand.

It also should push industrial policy designed to increase the competitiveness of export-oriented manufacturing industries.

(By Dr Rahul Mishra, based on the Inputs By ALEX MARTIN, MASAMI ITO OF Kyodo News)

## OUR PETTY LITTLE BUREAUCRATS

TJS George



It is strange that 5000 years of civilisation have left many of us uncivilised. Stranger still that most of the uncivilised end up as government bureaucrats. And because the bureaucrats - unseen, unobserved and always thinking small - manipulate most decisions on behalf of the country, the country is force-marched from one national shame to another.

Consider the wholly avoidable misadventure over Viswanathan Anand. It takes the crooked genius of a bureaucrat to think up ways of thwarting a doctorate being given to this wizard of chess. A man who brings glory to India many times over is insulted by a petty-minded file-pusher. The Minister apologises. Anand himself, with extraordinary grace, tells everyone to forget it and move on. That petty little bureaucrat must be enjoying the furore he has created and, lurking in his hole unseen and unobserved and always thinking small, figuring out how to shame the nation next to satisfy his petty little ego.

Do we as a race lack a sense of national pride? Look at the way we let foreigners escape after they have committed offences against our country: Ottavio Quattrocchi of Bofors fame, Warren Anderson of Bhopal fame, even the British adventurers who dropped illegal arms in a Purulia forest many years ago and simply flew home. Contrast that with the US Immigration Office detaining an Indian simply because he was carrying suspicious religious literature in his baggage. Nothing has been found to nail him, but he remains nailed.

What happens at the sports level is even more humiliating to us as a nation. Will any Indian with a modicum of national pride make such a miserable mess of every detail of the Commonwealth Games? The stink rose so high that bossman Kalmadi was snubbed and disgraced with his powers taken off. But he clings to his chair becoming not just disgraced, but disgraceful too.

How different was China. That too is a country where gargantuan corruption prevails. But when the Olympics came around, every official and every citizen realised that this was something the world was watching. What followed was a national movement of a kind the world had seldom seen, from top officials

to city gardeners doing their utmost to outperform themselves and achieve targets ahead of time. And what a show they mounted!

The most touching moment in the Beijing Olympics was when Liu Xiang, reigning champion of 110-metres hurdles, failed at take-off point because of leg injury. He was a superstar whose legs had been insured for \$13 million. He was in such pain that he should not have shown up at all. But this was China and this was Liu, the hero all Chinese were looking forward to with pride. When the leg failed and Liu retired in excruciating pain, tens of thousands of Chinese left the stadium crying; they didn't want to see the remaining

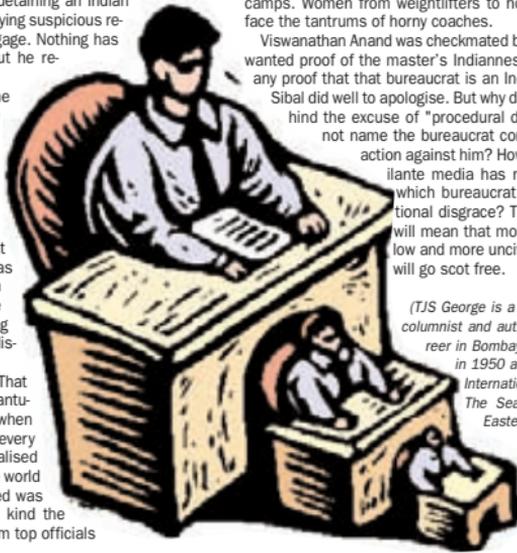
Kapil Sibal did well to apologise. But why did he take refuge behind the excuse of "procedural delays"? Why did he not name the bureaucrat concerned and initiate action against him? How come even the vigilante media has not tried to find out which bureaucrat caused such a national disgrace?

events. At a press conference, Liu's coach cried. Members of the Chinese media cried.

In India our officials, sports politicians and unseen bureaucrats take delight in putting players down. They don't pay outstanding dues to tennis stars who win fame abroad. They send athletes from one state to another in unreserved compartments. Nutritious food is not served at training camps. Women from weightlifters to hockey stars have to face the tantrums of horny coaches.

Viswanathan Anand was checkmated by a civil servant who wanted proof of the master's Indianness. Actually, is there any proof that that bureaucrat is an Indian? Minister Kapil Sibal did well to apologise. But why did he take refuge behind the excuse of "procedural delays"? Why did he not name the bureaucrat concerned and initiate action against him? How come even the vigilante media has not tried to find out which bureaucrat caused such a national disgrace? The failure to do this will mean that more disgraces will follow and more uncivilised civil servants will go scot free.

*(TJS George is a well-known journalist, columnist and author. He began his career in Bombay's Free Press Journal in 1950 and moved through the International Press Institute, The Searchlight and the Far Eastern Economic Review to become the founding editor of Asiaweek (Hong Kong). He is currently the Editorial Advisor of The New Indian Express.)*





# SIBLING REVELRY

Inspired by family initiative,  
team Dipika - Ravika build  
KAVI KAVI a major success story

**T**here are many success story originating from silicon valley but PIO population has started dominating new sectors, story of sisters Dipika & Ravika scripts an innovative initiative in fashion industry. Here are the sisters in conversation with our fashion desk explaining the success story that may inspire young Indian designers.

**Q. What inspired you to join the fashion and entertainment industry?**

Our passion for fashion started at an early age when our mother, Sudha Gupta hand-sewed beautiful dresses for us. Our mother, who has a degree in Fashion Design, taught us sewing and pattern-making techniques, which we used as early as elementary school to construct our own designs at home. At the age of 12, Dipika made her first sale: a pair of pants to a classmate. Being the main trendsetters throughout high school, our classmates looked to us to bring the latest fashion trends and styles to school grounds.

**Q. In terms of quality, how do you rate the Indian designers viz global fashion industry?**

The quality of Indian designers is on par with the rest of the global fashion industry. Just as our Italian and French counterparts, Indians have been brought up by a long line of mothers and dressmakers.

The recession has played a role in redefining our business philosophy. Not only have the customers become more conscious in the way they shop, but the manufacturing industry has taken a downturn. ..we are working on designing clothes that are economical and environmentally friendly

**Q. How do you assess KAVI KAVI brand in an extremely competitive industry, secondly the present recession has forced you to re-define your business philosophy?**

In this highly competitive industry, KAVI KAVI stands strong by always striving to be creative and innovative, and through making use of our Indian heritage and understanding of the demands of the global mainstream market. The recession has played a role in redefining our business philosophy. Not only have the customers become more conscious in the way they shop, but the manufacturing industry has taken a downturn. Understanding this, we are working on designing clothes that are economical and environmentally friendly.

**Q. Designing is about passion or hard core business for you? Apart from traditional apparels, you we expect similar niche in other verticals like interior decoration wherein the esthetic taste is fundamental to the core delivery?**

We work both ends of the spectrum. For Dipika, designing is a passion. For Ravika, designing means business, and this is why we make such a great team. In the end, the business of fashion is just that, a business, and we must keep this model in mind at all stages of the creative process.

The fashion industry is made up of many creative fields, from interior design, shoes and Hand bags, to jewelry. It is essential to understand the industry as a whole and that certain fashion trends share a common thread.

**Q. Apart from the conventional overseas market like US & UK, which are the other popular markets for Asian ORIGIN designer are looking at to expand business ?**

Apart from the U.S. and the U.K., the other popular markets for expansion are Tokyo and Dubai, as they are rapidly growing, highly fashion-forward cities.

**Q. Indian and China are booming, do you have any synergy with active Indian or Chinese company in the related sector to promote and co-brand yourself?**

Our future plans for expansion in production are to look toward India and China. To maintain our Indian authenticity, we buy fabric, and have our production done in India.



MODELS IN KAVI KAVI OUTFITS

**Q. Who is your role model?**

Our role model is our mother. Since early childhood, she has inspired us to be ourselves and always follow our hearts. Recently, we have been blessed with the support of our father, Vinod Gupta, who believes in our work and is helping us realize our dream of running a flourishing fashion label. Looking back, both of our parents had a great sense of style. It's only natural for us to take up fashion.

# TWO OF A KIND

The *Opinion Express* profiles two extraordinary women who have made their mark despite all odds



## New Indian Woman Sneha is creating her own road map

**S**neha Nagpal is an interesting career woman having opted for unconventional sector to create niche for her professional skills. She has worked with Dr. Madhav Nair, Shri Susheel kumar Shinde, Shrikanta Datta Wodeyar, Katta Subramaniam Naidu, Global Investors meet 2010 & Italian & German corporate investors. She has done entertainment events with Comedians Raju Srivastava, Ehsaan Qurashi, Sunil Pal, Guggi etc. Our fashion and entertainment desk editor **Ritu Shukla** explored the inside story of these relatively unknown yet successful women. Ritu

and Sneha had a brief interactive session. Excerpts

**Ques:** You have opted for unconventional yet lucrative business sector to operate, it was your own idea?

**Answer:** Yes absolutely, I was attracted to the podium from the age of 16.

**Ques:** You would like to limit your scope of work to a city or you are looking for pan India presence?

**Answer:** I think Bangalore being the silicon valley, has abundance opportunity for a corporate presenter like me. I would like to reach the epitome in this industry in my city, but if something on a National or Global level comes my way, I would probably consider.



**Ques:** What traits are vital to succeed in your business?

**Answer:** Professionalism, Presentation, Etiquette, Grooming, Communication & PR. overall discipline.

**Ques:** Money or passion - what is more relevant to you as a businesswoman?

**Answer:** Since I'm completely passionate about my profession, I would happily put money second. Though I'm sure you will agree, that premium quality comes at a price (laugh)

**Ques:** What future do you see for women in emerging new India?

**Answer:** Women's roles in India have been changing and women are now emerging from the past traditions into a new era of freedom and rights. Women like, Sonia Gandhi, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Indira Nooyi, Barkha Dutt, Saina Nehwal have changed the vision of a regular home keeper to a dynamic successful role model.

**Ques:** Who is your role model?

**Answer:** I have a varied thought about a role model, because I think there are so many talented people out there & just to pick one wouldn't complete my image of a role model.

I look up to a few, Barkha Dutt Indian TV journalist and columnist, Group Editor English News at New Delhi Television, the Padma Shri award winner inspires me. Also appreciate Sabira Merchant Diction Expert a versatile personality with many admirable qualities. Maureen Wadia the president of Gladrags Beauty Pageants and also the editor of the Gladrags magazine. Geetanjali Kirloskar an Advertising professional in India. An efficient blend of all these women is what I strive for.

## VOICE OF PRESENTATIONS

- Passion turned profession.
  - Born in a business family & married in one too..
  - Corporate affairs ministry & Govt in Bangalore have worked as a great platform for me as a Presenter.
  - Woman of substance & not just arm candy to their men at parties & social gatherings, getting clicked.
  - Other hobbies- Yoga, books pets, & cooking.
  - Confident, vivacious, dynamic & full of life
  - Excellent communication skills & good vocabulary.
- Great screen presence, spontaneous & ability to handle live situations.
- My inspiration comes from Sabira Merchant. I think she is a versatile personality with many admirable qualities.
  - Have been trained under the guidance of Rukshana Eisa for Grooming & Etiquette.
  - I have trained more than a 100 students in power yoga, under the teachings of my guru MAK
  - Anchoring experience of over 5yrs.
  - Lastly, but positively, supportive parents, in-laws & husband. Married for 4yrs.

## Zest for life: Jyoti Mahajan Mrs India International shows the way



### JYOTI AT A GLANCE

#### VOLUNTEER AND AFFILIATIONS

I volunteer my time at Frederick Memorial Hospital. I am a red strider and is continuously trying to raise awareness, educate people with type 1 diabetes. I am currently working on participating in social events such as parades, other volunteer work, marathons, walks to do my best for my cause.

#### JOB EXPERIENCE

Worked as Asst Branch Manager at Chevy Chase Bank until 2005.

Management associate with Chase Bank 2002-2004.

#### EDUCATION

Bachelors in Science.

Three years diploma in Computers.

Currently a student at local community college.

Jyoti Mahajan has succeeded in maintaining zest of life in spite having type 1 Diabetes. She represents select group of persons for whom obstacle offer opportunities in life rather than deterrents. Jyoti is top twenty contestant of Gladrags Mrs India 2010 held in India in October 2009. It was a reality series and was on air for six weeks. She is Winner of Mrs India International 2010 held in Atlanta in May 2010. Jyoti recently participated in Mrs International representing India in US.

Jyoti is a keen family oriented person, she live with her father in law, Husband Vikas and two little beautiful kids Arya and Saira Mahajan.

According to her, " My biggest strength is my Husband who has given me these wings and he is the wind behind my wings when needed, he provides me with the strength, courage, support and confidence ....I just want him to know forever that I love him deeply with all my heart".

At age 28, two years after my marriage, I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. It was a blessing in disguise. Having insulin shots everyday, overcoming the challenge of not having children and now blessed with two, I want to be a living example for millions out there.

I strongly believe that everything happens for a reason and God always take care of his children. I live with a hope for a miracle for myself and for everyone out there that one day we can live our lives without relying on any kinds of medications and insulin injections every day.





## RDB & Nindy Kaur Walk Red Carpet in Toronto

Tirusha Dave

International superstars RDB and Nindy Kaur have been continuously touring across the world, shooting music videos for their forthcoming album Worldwide, working on new Bollywood projects, and attending esteemed events in the industry.

Every year Toronto is host to Toronto International Film Festival. Founded in 1976, the Toronto International Film Festival is now one of the most presti-

gious film festivals in the world, screening between 300-400 films. This year marks the 34th annual festival.

On September 14th, RDB singers Manj Ral & Nindy Kaur were seen walking the red carpet at the Toronto International Film Festival party, hosted by Entertainment Tonight Canada. Sponsors of this grand event were L'oréal, Global, The Bay, and Liberty Grand. This spectacular event took place at the Yorkville Rooftop, in Toronto.

The event was high profile and ultra-ex-

clusive; There were meet and greets with Hollywood & TV

celebrities, as well as, film directors & producers. Check out Manj & Nindy Kaur walking the red carpet below.

RDB & Nindy Kaur were also seen attending the Toronto International Film Festival two years ago as Singh

is King was showcased during the festival. Additionally, RDB created the music which was used for the feature film Cooking with Stella, which was directed by Dilip Mehta.



Manj stated, "We were there representing the Bollywood industry and the great success of our collaborations with mainstream artists in Bollywood." He also went onto state, "This year we attended the Toronto International Film Festival in support of the film *West is West*, [the second part to *East is East*]. Next year we will also have another huge film to look forward to at the film festival." On a concluding note, Manj asserted that, "We need to show the world how we are making a huge movement within the mainstream film industry with our music. We are always breaking barriers for the South Asian industry with our collaborations."

Music wasn't the only reason RDB & Nindy Kaur stood out. They are true fashion icons as well. Nindy Kaur's outfit was from Frontier Delhi. Her jewelry was by Mahavir in Mumbai, and gorgeous footwear provided by Rocia in Mumbai. Manj rocked the red carpet with a stylish outfit by D&G and Etro clothing.

The most anticipated release from the RDB camp is their forthcoming album, *Worldwide*, which is set to release in the later part of 2010. Recently we gave you a sneak peak at RDB's video shoot in Miami. But most importantly,

RDB & Nindy Kaur are always there for the fans. You About RDB: Manj, Kuly & Surj comprise RDB, a group that has come a long way in becoming one of the leading Punjabi producers, musicians, singers, and entertainers in the world. These British born brothers were introduced to music at a very young age by their father who taught them to sing religious songs and play the harmonium in their Gurdwara.

RDB, which stands for Rhythm Dhol Bass, was designed by these three brothers to create a new genre of music. They brought different musical styles together and fused them with Punjabi folk music ultimately constructing the

"RDB sound". They are extremely talented and amazing en-

tertainers who have worked along side several celebrity singers and actors, not only in the east coast but also in the west; Akshay Kumar, Snoop Dogg, Public Enemy are only a few of them.

**About Nindy Kaur:** Nindy Kaur, also the wife of acclaimed singer and producer Manjeet Ral of RDB, began singing at the age of 10. Raised in the U.K. and surrounded by the beats and rhythms of Birmingham's Bhangra bands, she grew up as a child who would save her lunch money to buy every single Bhangra album upon release. It was in 2004 when Nindy

Kaur made her stage debut as she toured the United States with Shezad Roy & Sukhbir. Nindy's debut release was the track "Aja Sajana" which was featured on the album "Danger 3" by Untouchables Records. From there she also released "Gur Nalo Ishq" and "Gidha Pao," which were both featured on DJH's debut album. Nindy has also made her

Bollywood mark with hit tracks such as *Aloo Chaat*, *Boliyaan*, and *Om Mangalam*. Currently she is in the studio with RDB working on their album *Worldwide* and future Bollywood projects.

**About Three Records:** The Three Records label itself has been uniquely setup "by musicians for musicians." This pioneering combination of music and business hopes to give each artist more creative space and a better musical understanding than ever offered before. The labels main aims are to expand the current UK Asian genre of music to a larger market of customers, outlets, media companies, and distribution networks worldwide. Having offices in both the UK and North America, combines with in-depth market knowledge, this proposition of worldwide expansion is more of a target than anticipation. With many global paths and mainstream collaborations to come, Three Records and its artists are bound for success.

# Eat Good, Live Long

By Dr Vivek Dubey

If you think a few weeks of slothful behavior and caloric overindulgence can be easily worked off at the gym, think again. Weight gained during high calorie and low exercise periods tends to stick around.

A sedentary lifestyle and increased consumption of energy dense food have become more common in many parts of the world. Researchers studied 18 Swedish normal weight healthy adults aged 26 years to find the long-term effects on body composition after increasing the fast food consumption and reducing the physical activity. Data regarding the weight and body composition was collected of all the participants. For one month, all the participants were placed on a restricted physical activity regimen that involved the equivalent of no more than 5,000 steps per day. In addition, participants started diets involving a 70 percent increase in daily

During the follow-up after four weeks, it was found that the feasting group gained an average of 6 kg weight. Their fat mass was also found to have gone up from 20 percent of total body weight, to nearly 24 percent after the month-long intervention.

caloric intake - mainly from fast food - amounting to about 5,750 calories ingested per day. The researchers also included a comparison group who did not change their diet / activity.

During the follow-up after four weeks, it was found that the feasting group gained an average of 6 kg weight. Their fat mass was also found to have gone up from 20 percent of total body weight, to nearly 24 percent after the month-long intervention. The participants lost more than 4 kg of that new weight over the ensuing six months. However, one year after the study's end, participants still registered a noticeable gain in fat mass of about 1.4 kg on average, compared with their pre-study status. Two-and-a-half years after the study, fat mass gains were even higher, registering under 3 kg on average.



## Vitamins



Vitamins	RDA per day	Rich food sources	Important body functions
A	Retinol 600 or B-Carotene 2400 mcg	Carrots, spinach, milk, cheese, peaches, eggs, melon, apricot	Maintains eyes, skin, mucous membrane; prevents night blind- ness; promotes normal growth of bones
B1 (Thiamine)	1.2-1.6 mg	Breads, cereals, legumes, leafy vegetables, nuts	Aids in transmission of nerve im- pulses and chemical reactions in the body which provide energy
Niacin	16-21 mg	Grains, breads, nuts, veg- etables	Helps convert food into energy

There was no such long-term change among the control group who had stuck to their usual diet.

The findings suggest that the new fat gained stuck around despite the fact that the participants had returned to their lower-calorie pre-study diet and more active routines. The study shows that a brief period of excessive over-eating, coupled with reined-in activity, may change body composition and lead to a significant boost in body fat levels. And these changes appear to endure, despite a return to healthier behaviour.

### Iron

Food product	Iron Content (mg)
Lotus stem, dry	60.6
Rice flakes	20.0
Sarson ka saag	16.3
Soyabean	10.4
Moth dal	9.5
Chana, roasted	8.6
Lobia	8.0
Bajra	7.9
Water melon	7.7
Pista	5.81
Cashewnut	5.09
Almond	4.31
Sharifa	4.1

### Protein

Food product	Content (g)
Soyabean	43.2
Ground nut	25.3
Cheese	24.1
Pulses (dals)	23.3
Paneer	18.3
Meat	18.0
Fish	18.0
Wheat flour	12.1
Maize, dry	11.1
Egg, hen	7.0
Milk, buffalo's	4.3
Milk, cow's	3.2
Curds	3.1

### Calcium

Calcium Content (mg)

Cheese	790
Paneer	480
Milk	210
Curds	149

\*All the values mentioned are per 100g of edible portion

\* Although the calcium content of foods like cereals and leafy vegetables is very high, it is not available to the body as they contain certain compounds such as phytates and oxalates. These compounds combine with calcium in the food products resulting in an unavailable form of calcium.

\*All the values mentioned are per 100 grams of edible portion

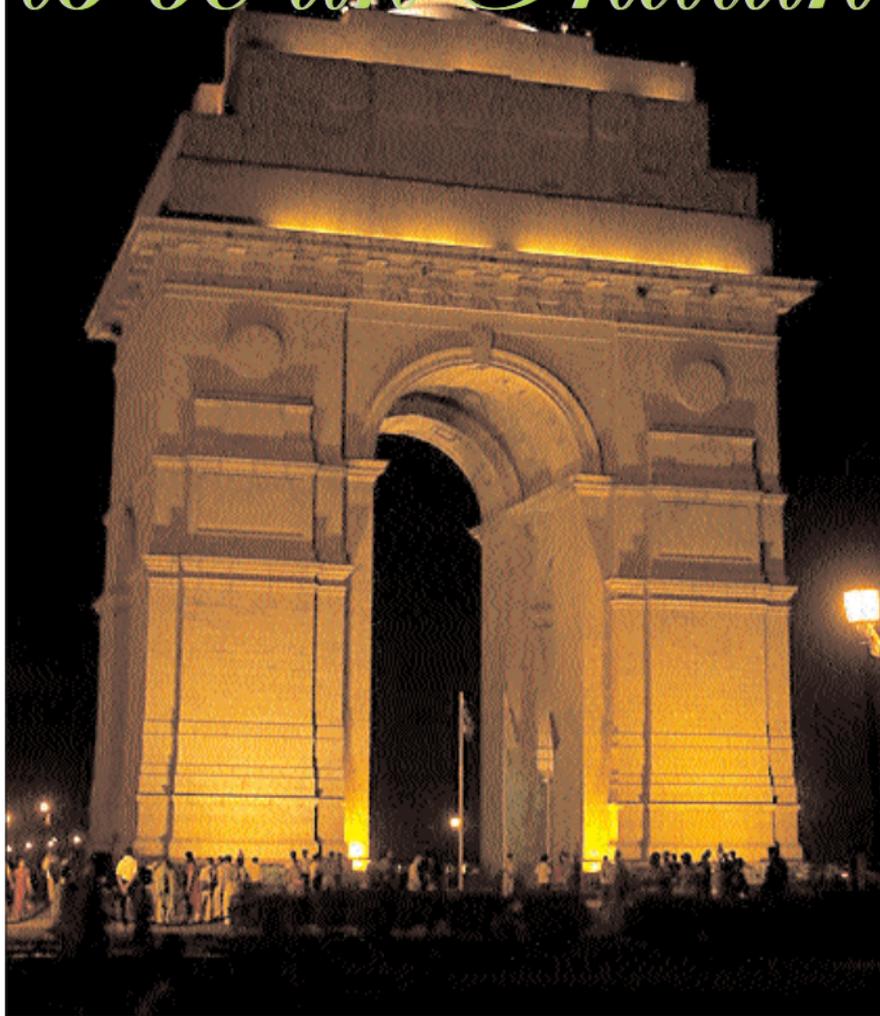
# Minerals

Minerals	RDA per day	Rich food sources	Important body functions
Calcium	400 mg	Milk and milk products such as cheese, curds, paneer *calcium content of foods like cereals and leafy vegetables is very high, but is in an unavailable form to the body as they contain certain compounds such as phytates and oxalates	Growth, maintenance, and reproduction of the human body; formation and maintenance of healthy bones and teeth; blood coagulation, transmission of nerve impulses, normal heart beat, stimulation of hormone secretion, activation of enzyme reactions and contraction-relaxation of muscles
Chromium	65 mcg	Cheese, whole grains, wheat germ, potatoes, mushrooms, liver, meat and poultry	Metabolism of carbohydrates and fats; regulates the amount of glucose in the blood; needed for insulin to work properly
Copper	2.2 mg	Legumes (dried beans), nuts, whole grains, and potatoes, shellfish, and organ meats	Formation of red blood cells; helps keep bones, blood vessels, nerves, immune system healthy; aids in the function of enzymes
Fluoride	-	-	Helps in the formation of bones and teeth; may help prevent osteoporosis
Iodine	-	Iodised salt, seafood and crops grown in iodine rich soil	Development and functioning of the thyroid gland; helps burn excess fat by stimulating the rate of metabolism
Iron	30 mg	Whole grains: wheat, millet, oats; Pulses: soybeans, dried beans and peas, kidney beans; Vegetables: broccoli, spinach and other leafy vegetables; Dried fruits: almonds, prunes, raisins, and apricots	Combines with protein and copper to form haemoglobin which transports oxygen in the blood from the lungs to the tissues; necessary for the formation of myoglobin which supplies oxygen to muscle cells; prevents fatigue and promotes good skin tone
Magnesium	-	Dark green leafy vegetables, milk, nuts, legumes (dried beans), bananas, wheat bran, whole grains and meat	Vital to many basic metabolic functions; aids in bone growth and the function of nerves, bones and muscles; required for regulation of normal heart rhythm; aids in regulation of blood pressure and water balance in cells
Manganese	5.5 mg	Whole grains, nuts, legumes (dried beans), vegetables, fruit, instant coffee, tea, and cocoa powder	Vital to reproduction; necessary in energy metabolism; aids in blood, cartilage and bone formation
Molybdenum	500 mcg	Milk, whole grains, legumes (dried beans), dark green leafy vegetables and liver	Activates certain enzymes in the body; necessary in energy metabolism; aids in blood, cartilage and bone formation
Phosphorus	400 mg	Fish, meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, peas, legumes (dried beans) and nuts	Required for formation of healthy bones and teeth; necessary for energy metabolism
Potassium	-	Fruits, vegetables, milk, meat and poultry	Vital for muscle contraction, nerve impulses; helps with proper function of heart, kidneys; aids in regulation of blood pressure, water balance in cells
Selenium	-	Fish, shellfish, red meat, grains (depending on soil content), eggs, garlic and liver	Helps proper functioning of the heart; needed for proper immune function
Sodium	-	Table salt, soya sauce, monosodium glutamate, cheese, smoked and cured meats, processed and canned foods	Helps regulate blood pressure and water balance in cells; aids in muscle contraction and nerve impulse transmission
Zinc	15.5 mg	Milk, whole grains, meat, liver, shell fish and wheat germ	Protein synthesis; wound healing; development of the reproductive organs, prostate functions and male hormone activity; contractility of muscles; normal tissue function; aids in the digestion and metabolism of phosphorus

JAI HO

**PROUD**

*to be an Indian*



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT

# Glorious India



The name India is derived from Indus, which is derived from the Old Persian word Hindu, from Sanskrit word Sindhu, the historic local appellation for the Indus River. The ancient Greeks referred to the Indians as Indoi, the people of the Indus. The Constitution of India and common usage in various Indian languages also recognise Bharat as an official name of equal status. The name Bharat is derived from the name of the legendary King Bharata in Hindu scriptures. Hindustan, originally a Persian word for "Land of the Hindus" referring to northern India, is also occasionally used as a synonym for all of India.

- India is the world's largest, oldest, continuous civilization.
- India never invaded any country in her last 10000 years of history.
- India is the world's largest democracy.
- Varanasi, also known as Benares, was called "the ancient city" when Lord Buddha visited it in 500 B.C.E, and is the oldest, continuously inhabited city in the world today.
- India invented the Number System. Zero was invented by Aryabhata.
- The World's first university was established in Takshashila in 700BC. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects. The University of Nalanda built in the 4th century BC was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.
- Sanskrit is the mother of all the European languages. Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software - a report in Forbes magazine, July 1987.
- Ayurveda is the earliest school of medicine known to humans. Charaka, the father of medicine consolidated Ayurveda 2500 years ago. Today Ayurveda is fast regaining its rightful place in our civilization.
- Although modern images of India often show poverty and lack of development, India was the richest country on earth until the time of British invasion in the early 17th Century. Christopher Columbus was attracted by India's wealth.
- The art of Navigation was born in the river Sindhu 6000 years ago. The very word Navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word NAVGATI. The word navy is also derived from Sanskrit 'Nou'.
- Bhaskaracharya calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart. Time taken by earth to orbit the sun: (5th century) 365.258756484 days.
- The value of pi was first calculated by Budhayana, and he explained the concept of what is known as the Pythagorean Theorem. He discovered this in the 6th century long before the European mathematicians.
- Algebra, trigonometry and calculus came from India. Quadratic equations

- were by Sridharacharya in the 11th century. The largest numbers the Greeks and the Romans used were 106 whereas Hindus used numbers as big as  $10^{53}$  (10 to the power of 53) with specific names as early as 5000 BCE during the Vedic period. Even today, the largest used number is Tera  $10^{12}$  (10 to the power of 12).
- IEEE has proved what has been a century old suspicion in the world scientific community that the pioneer of wireless communication was Prof. Jagdish Bose and not Marconi.
- The earliest reservoir and dam for irrigation was built in Saurashtra.
- According to Saka King Rudradaman I of 150 CE a beautiful lake called Sudarshana was constructed on the hills of Raivataka during Chandragupta Maurya's time.
- Chess (Shataranja or AshtaPada) was invented in India.
- Sushruta is the father of surgery. 2600 years ago he and health scientists of his time conducted complicated surgeries like cesareans, cataract, artificial limbs, fractures, urinary stones and even plastic surgery and brain surgery. Usage of anesthesia was well known in ancient India. Over 125 surgical equipment were used. Deep knowledge of anatomy, physiology, etiology, embryology, digestion, metabolism, genetics and immunity is also found in many texts.
- When many cultures were only nomadic forest dwellers over 5000 years ago, Indians established Harappan culture in Sindhu Valley (Indus Valley Civilization).
- The four religions born in India, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, are followed by 25% of the world's population.
- The place value system, the decimal system was developed in India in 100 BC.
- India is one of the few countries in the World, which gained independence without violence.
- India has the second largest pool of Scientists and Engineers in the World.
- India is the largest English speaking nation in the world.
- India is the only country other than US and Japan, to have built a super computer indigenously.

(Compiled by Divakar Shetty)

# E-TEXTBOOKS expected to grow with iPad on campus



By Alex Dobuzinskis

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** - Video and color graphics are key to why many people think Apple Inc's iPad and other tablets will usher in the era of electronic textbooks.

Analysts say that unlike Amazon.com Inc's Kindle - briefly touted as an educational tool - the iPad can play video and illustrate charts

and graphics in full color. It also allows for easy note-taking and the online component allows for integrated tests, exercises and updates.

"If I had the potential to buy all my textbooks as e-textbooks, I would," said Alexis Chavez, 22, of the University of Arizona. "It's just easier to carry an iPad than to have to carry a bunch of books in your backpack."

A growing acceptance of digital delivery in

the \$4.5 billion university textbook market, until now hampered by the lack of a suitable platform, will have major implications for dominant players such as Pearson PLC, privately held Cengage Learning and McGraw-Hill Companies Inc.

Publishers can save on printing and shipping, said Morningstar analyst Michael Corty. But they may also be hard pressed to maintain prices as publishers try to lure early adopters and compete with free Web offerings.

"The jury's out right now. I think at worst it's a neutral," said Don Kilburn, CEO of Pearson Learning Solutions.

Digital textbooks are expected to grow to 4 percent of overall sales this year from under 3 percent, rising to 11 percent by 2013, according to Simba Information.

"What the tablets have to do and in many ways can do are to make reading easier for students and a better experience," said senior Simba analyst Kathy Mickey.

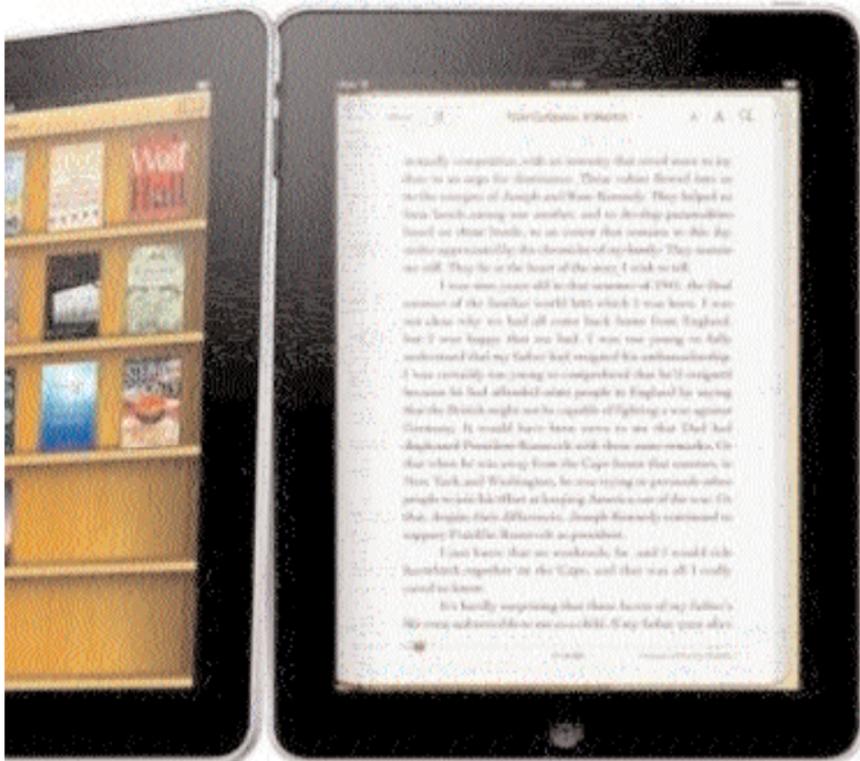
#### SCOURGE' OF PUBLISHERS

At CourseSmart.com, students can download McGraw-Hill's "Macroeconomics, 10th Edition" for \$43, versus \$107 in print.

One potential benefit for publishers of lower prices is the recovery of sales from the used-book segment. For every two new books sold in U.S. college textbook market, one used book is sold, according to the National Association of College Stores.

Used books are "the scourge of traditional textbook publishers," said Evercore Partners analyst Doug Arthur.





"If it all went to e-books and you needed a password to access them online for the latest and the greatest and for testing and everything, that would make the used textbook market less valid, and would help the publishers."

But smaller companies and university officials say the growth of digital distribution could also allow them to challenge the majors by lowering barriers to entry.

"It is going to be very disruptive" to publishers, said Eric Frank, president of Flat World Knowledge, which offers free texts to 1,300 instructors and their students on the Web.

Not all students are enamored with digital textbooks. A National Association of College Stores survey last year — before the iPad came out — showed that 74 percent of students still preferred physical texts. Students complained of eye fatigue and of the lack of color on the Kindle, said Charles Schmidt, a spokesman for the association.

The true "digital natives" are middle school students, he said. "For them, e-books are more normal, once they start moving up into higher-ed,

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they'll be more accepting of it."

Mickey does not expect "major shifts in the who's who of college publishing" — for now.

"Long term, the biggest threat to publishers will be if there's some kind of major adoption of open access (free course material), meaning there is a change in how college instructors and professors view content," she said.

Some aren't waiting to see. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, an educational publisher that focuses on course material for elementary, middle and high schools, sold its college publishing business to Cengage in 2007 for \$750 million.

"We absolutely accept and agree that there are secular risks to the future of textbooks" in the college market, said CEO Barry O'Callaghan.

Pearson says digital textbooks dovetail with its strategy of moving away from print and toward online educational services, such as MyLabs, a tutorial and assessment product that helps students work on their weak spots.

"If our main competitive advantage was paper and binding, I'd say we're in a world of hurt," Kilburn said.

# It's official: Microsoft initiates its Innovation Alliance in India



Allied member os Microsoft in India from Mr.Ashok Gehlot,CM, Rajasthan in presence of Mr.Moorthy K Uppaluri, Country Head, Microsoft at JECRC Campus

## JECRC, Jaipur Added To Worldwide Member List

The official announcement, at JECRC, regarding the programme Dream Spark was made by Mr.Moorthy K Uppaluri, General Manager and Country Head Microsoft India in the presence of reverent Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan on 15th September, 2010.

The day witnessed the glory of the college Jaipur Engineering College & Research Centre, Jaipur with it being the first in the nation to be awarded with Microsoft Innovation Alliance Member.

As the first member of this alliance in the Country, JECRC will be a part of Microsoft's Live@edu programme to enhance community-level collaboration in education. Through such efforts, Microsoft builds the capability of both teachers and students to use ICT in education for overall improvement of education standards, he said.

It will be a bridge between industry and students strengthen students` skills and make them more employable, he said.

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The Dream Spark programme became alive with a pious thought of providing software developer and designer tools free of cost to at least ten lakh students in the state. The MoU signed by Rajasthan Technical University Rajasthan University with Microsoft India avails this service.

The programme aimed to equip a new generation with the knowledge and tools, they need to harness the magic of software to im-

prove lives, solve problems and spur economic growth, Uppaluri said.

Dream Spark is a suite of the latest Microsoft software developer and designer tools, including Visual Studio 2005/ 2008/ 2010, Professional edition, SQL Server 2008 Express. Moorthy also presented a certificate of award to JECRC Foundation Directors Amit Agarwal and Arpit Agarwal at the induction ceremony.

## Is this the stuff are made of...?

*A recollection*  
by **Sudha Murthy**

# legends

*...The girl writing as herself...*

It was probably the April of 1974. Bangalore was getting warm and gulmohars were blooming at the IISc campus. I was the only girl in my postgraduate department and was staying at the ladies' hostel.

Other girls were pursuing research in different departments of Science. I was looking forward to going abroad to complete a doctorate in computer science. I had been offered scholarships from Universities in the US... I had not thought of taking up a job in India.

One day, while on the way to my hostel from our lecture-hall complex, I saw an advertisement on the notice board. It was a standard job-requirement notice from the famous automobile company Telco (now Tata Motors)... It stated that the company required young, bright engineers, hardworking and with an excellent academic background, etc. At the bottom was a small line: 'Lady Candidates need not apply.' I read it and was very upset.

For the first time in my life I was up against gender discrimination. Though I was not keen on taking up the job, I saw it as a challenge. I had done extremely well in academics, better than most of my male peers... Little did I know then that in real life academic excellence is not enough to be successful?

After reading the notice I went fuming to my room. I decided to inform the top-most person in Telco's management

about the injustice the company was perpetrating. I got a postcard and started to write, but there was a problem: I did not know who headed Telco. I thought it must be one of the Tatas. I knew JRD Tata was the head of the Tata Group;

I had seen his pictures in newspapers (actually, Sumant Moolgaokar was the company's chairman then) I



took the card, addressed it to JRD and started writing. To this day I remember clearly what I wrote. 'The great Tatas have always been pioneers. They are the people who started the basic infrastructure industries in India, such as iron and steel, chemicals, textiles and locomotives they have cared for higher education in India since 1900 and they were responsible for the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science. Fortunately, I study there.'

But I am surprised how a company such as Telco is discriminating on the basis of gender.' I posted the letter and forgot about it. Less than 10 days later, I received a telegram stating that I had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune facility at the company's expense.

I was taken aback by the telegram. My hostel mate told me I should use the opportunity to go to Pune free of cost and buy them the famous Pune saris for cheap! I collected Rs30 each from everyone who wanted a sari when I look back, I feel like laughing at the reasons for my going, but back then they seemed good enough to make the trip.

For the first time in my life I was up against gender discrimination. Though I was not keen on taking up the job, I saw it as a challenge. I had done extremely well in academics, better than most of my male peers... Little did I know then that in real life academic excellence is not enough to be successful? After reading the notice I went fuming to my room. I decided to inform the top-most person in Telco's management about the injustice the company was perpetrating. I got a postcard and started to write, but there was a problem: I did not know who headed Telco. I thought it must be one of the Tatas. I knew JRD Tata was the head of the Tata Group; I had seen his pictures in newspapers (actually, Sumant Moolgaokar was the company's chairman then) I took the card, addressed it to JRD and started writing.

It was my first visit to Pune and I immediately fell in love with the city. To this day it remains dear to me. I feel as much at home in Pune as I do in Hubli, my hometown. The place changed my life in so many ways. As directed, I went to Telco's Pimpri office for the interview. There were six people on the panel and I realized then that this was serious business.

'This is the girl who wrote to JRD,' I heard somebody whisper as soon as I entered the room. By then I knew for sure that I would not get the job. The realization abolished all fear from my mind, so I was

I met a shy young man from Karnataka there, we became good friends and we got married. It was only after joining Telco that I realized who JRD was: the uncrowned king of Indian industry. Now I was scared, but I did not get to meet him till I was transferred to Bombay. One day I had to show some reports to Mr Moolgaokar, our chairman, who we all knew as SM.

rather cool while the interview was being conducted.

Even before the interview started, I reckoned the panel was biased, so I told them, rather impolitely, 'I hope this is only a technical interview.' They were taken aback by my rudeness, and even today I am ashamed about my attitude. The panel asked me technical questions and I answered all of them. Then an elderly gentleman with an affectionate voice told me, 'Do you know why we said lady candidates need not apply? The reason is that we have never employed any ladies on the shop floor. This is not a co-ed college; this is a factory. When it comes to academics, you are a first ranker throughout. We appreciate that, but people like you should work in research laboratories.'

I was a young girl from small-town Hubli. My world had been a limited place. I did not know the ways of large corporate houses and their difficulties, so I answered, 'But you must start somewhere, other-

wise no woman will ever be able to work in your factories.' Finally, after a long interview, I was told I had been successful. So this was what the future had in store for me. Never had I thought I would take up a job in Pune.

I met a shy young man from Karnataka there, we became good friends and we got married. It was only after joining Telco that I realized who JRD was: the uncrowned king of Indian industry. Now I was scared, but I did not get to meet him till I was transferred to Bombay. One day I had to show some reports to Mr Moolgaokar, our chairman, who we all knew as SM. I was in his office on the first floor of Bombay House (the Tata headquarters) when, suddenly JRD walked in. That was the first time I saw 'appro JRD'. Appro means 'our' in Gujarati. This was the affectionate term by which people at Bombay House called him.

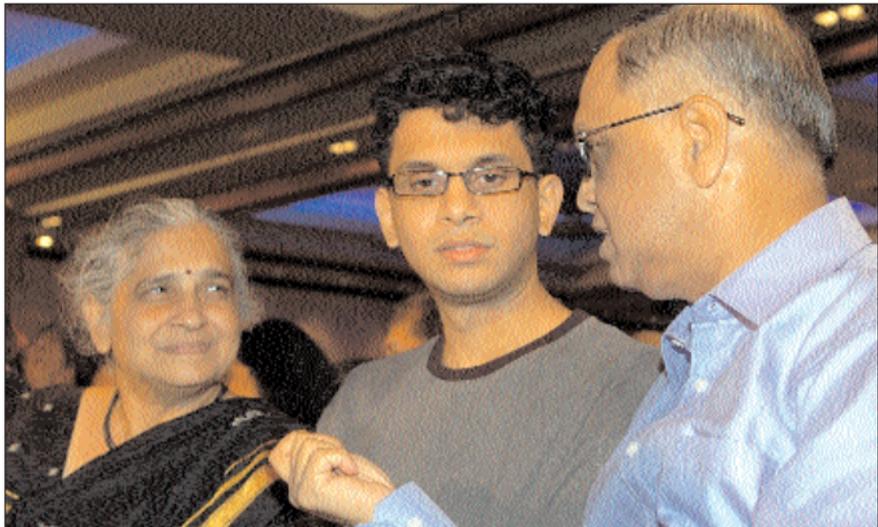
I was feeling very nervous, remembering my postcard episode. SM introduced me nicely, 'Jeh (that's what his close associates called him), this young woman is an engineer and that too a postgraduate. She is the first woman to work on the Telco shop floor.'

JRD looked at me. I was praying he would not ask me any questions about my interview (or the postcard that preceded it). Thankfully, he didn't. Instead, he remarked. 'It is

Sudha Murthy

nice that girls are getting into engineering in our country. By the way, what is your name?' 'When I joined Telco I was Sudha Kulkarni, Sir,' I replied. 'Now I am Sudha Murthy.' He smiled and kindly smile and started a discussion with SM. As for me, I almost ran out of the room. After that I used to see JRD on and off. He was the Tata Group chairman and I was merely an engineer. There was nothing that we had in common. I was in awe of him.





Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murthy and Infosys technologies Limited Chief mentor N R Narayan Murthy along with (Centre) Rohan, son of Narayan Murthy

One day I was waiting for Murthy, my husband, to pick me up after office hours.

To my surprise I saw JRD standing next to me. I did not know how to react. Yet again I started worrying about that postcard. Looking back, I realize JRD had forgotten about it. It must have been a small incident for him, but not so for me. 'Young lady, why are you here?' he asked. 'Office time is over.' I said, 'Sir, I'm waiting for my husband to come and pick me up.' JRD said, 'It is getting dark and there's no one in the corridor. I'll wait with you till your husband comes.' I was quite used to waiting for Murthy, but having JRD waiting alongside made me extremely uncomfortable. I was nervous. Out of the corner of my eye I looked at him. He wore a simple white pant and shirt. He was old, yet his face was glowing. There wasn't any air of superiority about him.

It is getting dark and there's no one in the corridor. I'll wait with you till your husband comes.' I was quite used to waiting for Murthy, but having JRD waiting alongside made me extremely uncomfortable. I was nervous. Out of the corner of my eye I looked at him. He wore a simple white pant and shirt. He was old, yet his face was glowing. There wasn't any air of superiority about him.

I was thinking, 'Look at this person. He is a chairman, a well-respected man in our country and he is waiting for the sake of an ordinary employee.' Then I saw Murthy and I rushed out. JRD called and said, 'Young lady, tell your husband never to make his wife wait again.' In 1982 I had to resign from my job at Telco. I was reluctant to go, but I really did not have a choice.

I was coming down the steps of Bombay House after wrapping up my final settlement when I saw JRD coming up. He

To my surprise I saw JRD standing next to me. I did not know how to react. Yet again I started worrying about that postcard. Looking back, I realize JRD had forgotten about it. It must have been a small incident for him, but not so for me.

was absorbed in thought. I wanted to say goodbye to him, so I stopped. He saw me and paused. Gently, he said, 'So what are you doing, Mrs. Kulkarni?' (That was the way he always addressed me.) 'Sir, I am leaving Telco.'

'Where are you going?' he asked. 'Pune, Sir. My husband is starting a company called Infosys and I'm shifting to Pune.' 'Oh! And what will you do when you are successful.' 'Sir, I don't know whether we will be successful.' 'Never start with diffidence,' he advised me 'Always start with confidence. When you are successful you must give back to society. Society gives us so much; we must reciprocate. Wish you all the best.' Then JRD continued walking up the stairs. I stood there for what seemed like a millennium. That was the last time I saw him alive. Many years later I met Ratan Tata in the same Bombay House, occupying the chair JRD once did. I told him of my many sweet memories of working with Telco. Later, he wrote to me, 'It was nice hearing about Jeh from you. The sad part is

that he's not alive to see you today.' I consider JRD a great man because, despite being an extremely busy person, he valued one postcard written by a young girl seeking justice. He must have received thousands of letters everyday. He could have thrown mine away, but he didn't do that. He respected the intentions of that unknown girl, who had neither influence nor money, and gave her an opportunity in his company. He did not merely give her a job; he changed her life and mindset forever. Close to 50 per cent of the students in today's engineering colleges are girls. And there are women on the shop floor in many industry segments. I see these changes and I think of JRD. If at all time stops and asks me what I want from life, I would say I wish JRD were alive today to see how the company we started has grown. He would have enjoyed it wholeheartedly. My love and respect for the House of Tata remains undiminished by the passage of time. I always looked up to JRD. I saw him as a role model for his simplicity, his generosity, his kindness and the care he took of his employees. Those blue eyes always reminded me of the sky; they had the same vastness and magnificence. Sudha Murthy is a widely published writer and chairperson of the Infosys Foundation involved in a number of social development initiatives. Infosys chairman Narayana Murthy is her husband.

# Innovative initiatives

## BY ASIANS



Hollywood is known for creating many powerful alliances: Jerry Bruckheimer and Don Simpson, Ron Howard and Brian Grazer and most recently Atif Mirza and Tarun Shetty.

The latter (Mirza/Shetty) head Raising Desi productions with central headquarters set up in Hollywood, California. The duo met several years ago while Mirza was director on the Bollywood entertainment show, *Showbiz India* and Shetty was an actor/producer. They formed the company in 2006 and never looked back.

I joined them on a Friday at Raising Desi headquarters. Shetty refers to it as "Hall of Justice" because he feels their work represents "everything that is good in Hollywood."

When asked about Raising Desi's beginnings, Mirza responds "We just pooled our efforts and wanted to see where it led." Those efforts led to the number one South Asian web series on youtube *Desi OC*, which is sponsored by Shaadi.com and generates hits in the millions. The series currently has interest into being developed into a full-length TV show. Most recently, the duo shot their first feature movie



Tarun Shetty & (R) Atif Mirza

entitled "Bobby Khan's Ticket To Hollywood," a comedy movie about the struggles of a South Asian actor in Hollywood.

"I think what keeps us going is the fans' comments Mirza. "We have a global fan base which has built quite fast thanks to the internet. Bottom line, our work is good and that's why audiences continue to tune in."

"You think *Desi OC* is good, wait till you see the movie," Shetty adds. The cast includes himself, a well-known comedian in America, as well as global comedy star Russell Peters.

"Well, we're pretty much done shooting and

post-production, but it always takes some time to get the paperwork straightened out, so expect a release sometime in 2011." Mirza also stresses that Raising Desi makes mainstream content but won't abandon their South Asian roots. "We want our work to be profitable for investors but it's important to remember who we are and in some way or another our work reflects our South Asian heritage."

What's next for Raising Desi? "We get offers for projects but it's hard to find the right one that we feel passionate about," notes Mirza. Shetty adds, "We've got a few commercial scripts and we'll be looking for investors this year. We can make a great, profitable movie but having the right resources are still important."

I got to join the Raising Desi staff for their weekly meeting and lunch before everyone took off, preparing for tomorrow's shoot. It's clear that teamwork and hard work is the foundation for Raising Desi's success — a company started by dreams and making their goals a reality.

(Files by Divyansh Bajpai, US Bureau)



## Strategic Location

- Located in the Rajpuri Creek on the West Coast of India
- Advantageously positioned along International Shipping Routes
- 42 Nautical miles South of Mumbai
- 160 kms from Mumbai by road
- 42 kms off NH 17 and the Rail Network
- Identified node on DMIC & DFC

### Immediate Hinterland

Roha, Khopoli, Mahad, Patalganga, Nagothane, Navi Mumbai, Mumbai, Thane-Belapur, Nasik, Pune

### Secondary Hinterland

Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and the land locked States of North India

## Connectivity

### By Road

Northern Shore SH 96, SH 92 and SH 90  
Southern Shore SH 97 and SH 98

### By Rail

Connectivity - Northern and Southern bank  
Proposed Alignment: Agardanda - Indapur - Mangaon

## Development Potential & Planned Facility

### Phase I - 5 Berths :

- 4 Multipurpose Berths, 1 Ro Ro Terminal
- Capacity to handle 30 million tonnes
- Dedicated Approach Channel with a depth of 14.5 m chart datum
- Extensive land bank for development
- Waterfront encompassing Northern and Southern Banks

## SEZ & FTWZ

Port based multi-product SEZ inclusive of FTWZ  
Dedicated world-class infrastructure for warehousing & logistics  
State of the art cargo handling equipment transportation & support infrastructure facilities

## Cargo Potential

- Containers
- Steel
- Automobiles / Automobile Components
- LNG
- POL
- Minerals
- Coal
- Chemicals
- Fertilizers
- Cement
- Iron Ore
- Edible Oil, etc...

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