

OPINION

Vol 20 | No 11  
Nov 2012 | Rs 20

# EXPRESS

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A MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE



COVER STORY

## FROM LAND OF RISING SUN

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RNI UP-ENG70032/92, Vol 20, No 11

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The magazine is published and printed by Rajiv Agnihotri for Opinion Express Communications & Entertainments Pvt Ltd, from 2 Ashok Nagar, Lucknow And printed at Kumpu Graphic Press.

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editorial

Chidambaram caught in spectrum web



The dark clouds of the 2G scam and the repeated evidence being given by A. Raja and other accused of his tacit involvement and other acts of omission and commission are menacingly closing in on Chidambaram. Chidambaram's note assumes significance in the light of Janata Party President Subramanian Swamy's petition in the Supreme Court saying that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) should investigate

Chidambaram's role in the 2G scam. Swamy alleges that Chidambaram "fixed" spectrum rates along with Raja. The note shows that even if the two didn't collude to fix the prices, Chidambaram wanted to treat it as a "closed chapter".

He is losing his cool, and more importantly, losing his carefully clipped English accent to its more indigenous roots more often. And like his colleague Digvijay Singh, his mind seems to be disintegrating to a stage where he has started talking gibberish. Take this, for example: in reply to the BJP demand for his resignation for his involvement in the 2G scam, Chidambaram claims that the BJP is targeting him since he initiated a probe by the NIA into Hindu terror. Can any rational person see the connection between the two?

Chidambaram's special financial skills have diversified into electoral politics also. He has the distinction of having been declared defeated in the last Lok Sabha election, after which he galvanized his special skills and local machinery, in particular, a data entry operator, and doctored a marginal victory on the recount. That is quite a record for fraud. Sadly, he has to confront with hostile state government led by Amma that won the recent assembly election in his home state. And can one forget how the Indian Bank was cleaned up and left with only non-performing assets thanks to him and his Tamil Maanila buddies?

Celebrity lawyer Ram Jethmalani recently hurled serious charges in an article stating - Being Finance Minister in the UPA government was his finest hour. He could fiddle around with share markets, capital markets, banks, financial instruments, such as, securities, participatory notes, tax treaties, not to speak of spectrum sale, and use his extraordinary innovative powers of black money magic to plunder our country with complete impunity. He assiduously cultivated the media with his clipped English accent (that led him down, now and then), occasional freebies, and sustained shadows of the Enforcement Directorate that he commanded.

On the positive note, he is unfairly criticized for his handling of home ministry but to his credit, he has performed better than his predecessor Mr Shivraj Patil by far. The terror attacks are drastically reduced, J&K situation looks under control, Telengana is a political issue hence he should be blamed for the mess, North East is looking fragile though manageable. We must understand that India's internal security is a huge challenge with micro dynamic changes every hour. We have open borders with many hostile states making the internal issue more complex. But his handling of public standoff with Pranab Mukherjee, Baba Ramdev mid night assault, Anna Hazare unexpected arrest prior to his historic fast, booking Subramaniam Swamy for anti minority article, open support to suspended Gujrat cop Sanjeev Bhat questions his political intelligence.

On the positive note, he is unfairly criticized for his handling of home ministry but to his credit, he has performed better than his predecessor Shivraj Patil by far. The terror attacks are drastically reduced, J&K situation looks under control, Telengana is a political issue hence he should be blamed for the mess...

— Prashant Tewari



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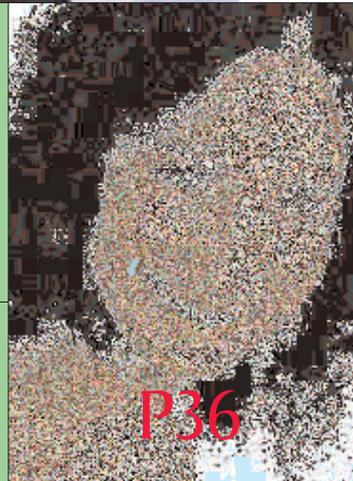
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# Modi puts PM race on fast track

Prakhar Prakash Mishra

India's next general election is almost three years away, but the race for prime minister ship may have already begun. Modi's springboard from which he is launching himself as the BJP's, and possibly the NDA's, prime ministerial candidate at a time when the ruling Congress party-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is battling a spate of corruption scandals and a leadership crisis.

Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi is eyeing a bigger national leadership role and is positioning himself for a power struggle in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), say US diplomatic cables made public by online whistleblower WikiLeaks. "Modi is using his strong base in Gujarat to position himself for the BJP power struggle and to crow about Gujarat's investment-friendly (but certainly not minority-friendly) record," says one of the cables which were uploaded earlier this week by Wikileaks. The cables sent by US diplomats in New Delhi focus on Modi's rising stature in the BJP and claim that "Modi has his eyes on bigger things".

While faltering on the social harmony front, Modi has keenly cultivated the image of an efficient and pro-business ad-

ministrator.

Gujarat's gross domestic product has been growing at 11%, higher than the national average of 8-9%, and it has attracted thousands of crores of rupees in investment, mostly through the showpiece Vibrant Gujarat summit, a biennial congregation of industrialists from around the world launched by Modi.

The state has signed memorandums of understanding worth more than Rs. 40 trillion since 2003. More companies have firmed up investments in Gujarat than in most other states of the country. The state is on its way to become an auto hub, with Tata Motors, Ford, Peugeot and Maruti Suzuki eyeing investments.

Many important projects started before Modi was sworn in as chief minister have also materialized in his tenure. The project to build a dam on the Narmada river is an example. The state government's rural electrification mission lit up even remote parts of Gujarat. With an aim to promote clean energy, Gujarat hopes to produce 200-300 megawatts of solar power by the year-end, making it the solar capital of the country.

Narendra Modi is a political enigma wrapped in a popularity chart. His interviews are tactical. Modi is clear: what

Gujarat does today, India will follow tomorrow. The keywords of achievement - Development, Governance, Growth - are all there. Gujarat becomes the ideal state and BJP, the ideal party. The Congress is a genealogy of hypocrisy and waste. Any audit will prove he delivers money's worth, whether it is in choice of the site for his celebration, or the quality of investments for Gujarat. He is clear he is History and that the future is on his side.

Does this spectacle set the stage for a national leader? The answer is ambivalent. Modi might be good for the BJP. He is immaculate on attacking Congress and its hypocrisy, but does not realise that it adds little to his claims that he will be equally good for the nation. The shows of solidarity - stage managed - do not work at the national level. He speaks a standardized language when a nation has to see as a plethora of dialects, allowing for difference.

The wonderful thing about tyrants is they are self defeating. Modi has created a language, an idiom, a style, an early warning system for the future. The nation knows what it will have to avoid. A collection of growth indicators do not add up to a moral vision for the future.

*(Writer is our Political Editor)*



C O V E R S T O R Y

# CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE



# It's time Manmohan Singh must un- derstand that si- lence and inaction can be equally harmful as dishonesty

PRASHANT TEWARI

**T**he expression "Caesar's wife must be above suspicion," is used by Dr Manmohan Singh while addressing the AICC session in New Delhi. Forget Caesar's wife; should the Prime Minister, like Caesar, remain silent when people like A Raja and Suresh Kalmadi run away with aam aadmi's money?

His honesty and integrity have never been on the debating table or questioned. On these grounds he has been well above the watermarks of doubt; but his silence has not been so. Dr Singh place in Indian history is assured with a sure credit must go to late P V Narsimha Rao who gave him a chance to become the Finance Minister,

the image as the 'Deng (Xiaoping) of India' - the reformer who liberated India from the shackles of the command economy and unleashed the entrepreneurial forces that transformed this ancient land.

We, the people of India, know that your integrity is beyond question. In a world and time when ethics and honesty are at a pre-

mium, we rest assured that we are led by a person who, in his moral convictions, is pure as the driven snow. This is a given. Nobody needs to tell us how.

Here are some occasions when Manmohan Singh could have acted in time, but never did:



**DEADLOCK:** MPS MAKING A WALKOUT FROM RAJYA SABHA DEMANDING JPC PROBE OF THE SPECTRUM SCAM

## 2G SPECTRUM SCAM

It took over a year for the Prime Minister to act; it took over a year for the CBI to wake up. Had it not been for the PIL in the Supreme Court, the scam would have dragged on and on. Why did Singh not act when the then Telecom minister A Raja refused to listen? Why did the PM not act when Raja ignored Cabinet colleagues and asked them to keep off the Spectrum turf?

Why did the government not bring out the facts when the issue was debated in the Rajya Sabha over a year ago? Why did the PM act only after the Supreme Court comments on the tardy progress and questioned the CBI on its monumental silence?

Another point: If the PM had nothing to hide, why not agree for a JPC probe?

On the point of the demand for a JPC in the 2G scam by the Opposition, PM have castigated the Opposition for disrupting a



in the 2G scam by the Opposition, PM have castigated the Opposition for disrupting a whole session of Parliament.

"One wonders what kind of politics the Opposition believes in when they do not have faith even in Parliament," he thundered. While wasting a whole session of Parliament is 'despicable', surely the Joint Parliamentary Committee or the JPC is also a tool in the hands of Parliament. Demanding a JPC is surely not un-parliamentary.

It has been conceded before, notably in the Bofors and the Securities scams. Why the reticence now? It's not only the Opposition, but even your own allies. Mamata Banerjee for instance, has let it be known that she would not be unhappy if the UPA accepts a JPC probe.

## NIIRA RADIA TAPES

**H**ow come the Prime Minister was not aware of the fact that private conversations were being secretly taped? Such acts are allowed only for national security. Even if they were taped, who leaked



it to the media and why? The conversations were taped by a government agency and the tapes were in the possession of this agency. How come the tapes were leaked and what was the motive?

The PM was visibly upset while addressing the captains of the industry this month. But that shows that he was not under control of things. Even now, he is not able to pin-point who leaked the tapes to the media and why.

Now that the content of the tapes are in public domain, what action plan is prepared by you to hunt down culprits - incidentally all of them are high and mighty. Sir, this is a historic opportunity for you to act tough to ensure people have faith in democratic values practiced by us.



**WELL BEYOND THE LOBBY:** NIIRA RADIA HAS BEEN A COMMON THREAD

## CWG SCAM

**F**or four long months, all the dirt on Commonwealth Games was out in the open.

The stink too was there for everyone to 'smell' and squirm. But for the best part,

the PM adopted the three wise monkey strategy with a twist in the tale: see-no-scam, hear-no-scam, tell-no-scam. Why did the PM not step in early and stem the rot? He appointed an overseeing committee only after the mess had spun out of control.

Even now, Suresh Kalmadi is talking stu-

pid; the CBI raided his establishments after full three months of uproar in the country.

Sir, we are sure that 90 days are enough to put any house in order that we expect Kalmadi must have done to destroy evidences. Surely, he plans to bid for the Olympics.



**CRASHED:** THE COLLAPSE OF THIS BRIDGE IN FRONT OF JLN STADIUM SYMBOLISED EVERYTHING THAT AILED CWG 2010 AND (INSET) THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHIEF SURESH KALMADI IS NOW A HUNTED MAN

## THE CVC ROW

**T**he Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by taking into confidence the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Three persons were shortlisted for the CVC post but the government ignored the dissenting note of Opposition leader Sushma Swaraj and appointed P J Thomas as the CVC. This despite the fact that he is an accused in the palm oil import scam in Kerala.

Sushma Swaraj had openly said that the Government was free to choose any one among the two other officers on the list of three, not Thomas. But the PM paid a deaf ear and went ahead. The government knew all along that Thomas, as the CVC, will not be in a position to investigate the 2G spectrum allotment scandal in which his own ministry was involved. An official with such a shadow of x



**UNDER CLOUD:** CHIEF VIGILANCE COMMISSIONER P J THOMAS

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doubt should not have been made the CVC.

Now, the matter is before the Supreme Court which has questioned the manner in which Thomas got the job. Why was the PM so keen on Thomas who was under a cloud of controversy? He could have picked up

the next good officer on the list.

Well, like Caesar's wife, the PM should be above suspicion. But fact of the matter is that in all the serious corruption cases, it is Supreme Court rather than the government that is controlling the events hence leading to an impression that gov-

ernment has lost credibility and strength to stop the corruption and punish the guilty. The country has lost over Rs 2.5 lakh crore ( over \$50b ) just because PM choose not to act in time.



**TOWER OF DECIET:** ADARSH SCAM IS A BIG DENT FOR THE CONGRESS

### ON FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

**D**r Singh has argued that there multiple agencies investigating the various aspects of the 2G scam and therefore a JPC is unwarranted. "We have always strived to eradicate corruption and we will continue to do so. Our approach to corruption also gets clearly reflected in our actions," "These inquiries will be pursued vigorously. And it is my promise to you that no guilty person will be spared - whether he is a political leader or a government official, whichever party he may belong to and howsoever

powerful he may be."

Really, Prime Minister? "No guilty person will be spared"? Sorry to say, Prime Minister, we the citizens are not so sanguine. How many public servants have been prosecuted in Independent India for corruption? We can't think of any. And, it's nothing to do with our collective memory. We are waiting for your action plan to track down the culprits that are mentioned in Radia tapes.

Therefore, if as you really say, that your "approach to corruption gets reflected in our actions", what have you done to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 - an Act that should actually be renamed the 'Prevention of Prosecution of Public Servants'.



**HANDICAPPED:** ARE UPA ALLIES WORKING AS A HANDICAP FOR THE PM?

should actually be renamed the "Prevention of Prosecution of Public Servants". Allow me the audacity to suggest four simple amendments to give teeth and substance to the Act and make it a real deterrent for public servants from going to the devil, now that your government has not thought of it.

One: Shift onus of proof on to the public servant. If Sukh Ram or Raja or any public servant is caught with assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, make it incumbent on him or her to show that the monies or assets were earned through legitimate means. If he can't, that should be a ground for guilt and prosecution.

Two: Ensure that there will be no stays granted or adjournments in cases involving public servants. They should be ones fast-tracked with continuous hearing. Otherwise, like the case against Sukh Ram, even after a decade and a half, the culprits will have the last laugh to the bank, or wherever they have stashed the cache.

Three: Prime Minister, mere fines aren't enough for public servants who indulge in illegal gratification. Physical incarceration should be the minimum



**Unfortunately, Prime Minister, the impression we get is that you are hemmed in by the allies on the one side and the moods and whims of your party and its President on the other**

penalty for what amounts to looting the nation.

Just these three amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act should go a long way in instilling the fear of consequences in the public servants who are tempted to reach into the national exchequer. If you claim to be acting against corruption, I wonder why your government has not even taken the first baby steps. Unfortunately, Prime Minister, the impression we get is that you are hemmed in by the allies on the one side and the moods and whims of your party and its President on the other. To her credit, Sonia Gandhi has made it known

publicly that you have her full support. We wonder why the Congress party and the allies don't get the message!

We urge you to stand up and be counted. And believe me, Prime Minister, we get this sense that the people of India will be with you, whatever your party and your allies may say. It's said that the only time you acted out of conviction was on the nuclear deal with the US. The grapevine has it that you even threatened to resign; if the Congress and your UPA allies don't throw weight behind the deal in Parliament. And, Prime Minister, you know what happened. Did the heavens fall or did you get your way? Should not that be a pointer to the way you should go? And, when and if you do go that route, of playing by your convictions, and hounding out the corrupt and those who bring us shame, we have no doubt in our mind that the citizens of India, to the man, will be behind you.

Sir, this is a historic opportunity for you to act tough to ensure people have faith in democratic values practiced by us in India, you are representing aspirations of over a billion people that is one sixth of human population hence the responsibility is enormous. God has been kind to you for providing you with a platform to deliver extraordinary service to our nation - please act!!



# Importance of 2012 UP assembly polls

Special Correspondent

**T**he population of Uttar Pradesh (UP) is equal to that of Brazil, the fifth most populous country. It sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha and 31 members to the Rajya Sabha. Unsurprisingly, it has a decisive influence on national politics. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as a national party because of its spectacular performance in UP during the 1990s, when it successfully hawked Hindu nationalism.

Ironically, by the late 1990s UP also demonstrated the limits of Hindu nationalism, when caste-based provincial parties began to cannibalize BJP's support base. In fact, by the late 1990s, other national parties had also been marginalized in UP. In recent times, UP has served as a pas-

**Ironically, by the late 1990s UP also demonstrated the limits of Hindu nationalism, when caste-based provincial parties began to cannibalize BJP's support base. In fact, by the late 1990s, other national parties had also been marginalized in UP.**

sive constraint on the freedom of national parties, forcing them to follow coalition dharma in the face of impossibility of attaining majority on their own. However, the forthcoming assembly elec-

tion is likely to mark the return of UP to national politics as an active player. There are two reasons for this. First, it will significantly influence the choice of prime ministerial candidates of non-Congress coalitions. If Kumari Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) loses then Nitish Kumar will gain in influence because he is one of the very few mass leaders, acceptable to both the Left Front and BJP. Recall the ease with which Nitish resisted Hindutva in 2010 Bihar election. BJP hadn't forgotten Navin Patnaik's effortless leftward swing in 2009 Orissa election after it played the communal card. However, a comfortable majority for Mayawati will erode Nitish's bargaining power by providing the Left Front-led Third Front with another prime ministerial candidate. Once his outside option is vitiated Nitish will lose his bargaining power within the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), giving BJP a

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will lose his bargaining power within the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), giving BJP a freehand to choose NDA's candidate.

Second, the forthcoming election will have an enormous impact on whether political parties across India will rely on good governance to win elections. Nitish's successive electoral victories in Bihar, one of the strongholds of politics of authenticity, have raised hopes that good governance can help win elections. However, this hope might be premature because his success was driven among other things by factors not obtained

ated from a leader of the lower castes into a mass leader. In the 2007 assembly election, her rainbow team of lower and highest castes and minorities promised good governance and fair representation to all communities to defeat Mulayam's internally divided middle caste-minority coalition.

However, once in power, she recklessly spent public money on memorials dedicated to cherry-picked Bahujan icons, including herself, and quickly lost focus. This has changed over the last year or so. As corruption cases related to her previous terms faded from public memory she became more

abilities as broader developmental rather than ascriptive problems. (I am deliberately ignoring Digvijay Singh's counter-rant.) If a developmentalist agenda helps Mayawati's return to power and rejuvenation of the UP Congress then in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh (MP) Shivraj Singh Chouhan (BJP), another prime ministerial candidate, will be encouraged to rely on his good governance credentials in 2013 assembly election.

Some small and medium-sized provinces have already shown preference for good governance in elections. Once good governance is established as the decisive factor in elec-



**ACES UP HER SLEEVES?:** MAYAWATI IS LOOKING FOR A SECOND TERM

elsewhere, which is why the forthcoming election in UP is important.

But who can play Nitish in UP? Kalyan Singh (BJP), who began his career with a clean, develop mentalist image, is unable to get off the Hindutva-Secularism merry-go-round. Ageing Mulayam Singh (Samajwadi Party), who almost implemented the Bihar model in UP, is unable to hold together his party. As per its own admission, the UP Congress leadership is nothing sans Rahul Gandhi. This leaves us with BSP's Mayawati, presently serving as the chief minister for the fourth time. For reasons beyond the scope of the present discussion, she began her career with most divisive and foul sloganeering. But slowly and steadily she gradu-

confident in fighting corruption. However, the turning point was the gruesome murder of a young engineer, unable to pay a huge contribution for Mayawati's birthday bash, on December 24, 2008 by a BSP legislator. Stung by criticism her government threw the legislator behind bars. Since then she has willingly or unwillingly punished corrupt officials and party members.

Mayawati knows very well that good governance alone can return her rainbow coalition to power and no longer relies solely on her identity to answer her critics. Parallel, Rahul Gandhi, a prime ministerial candidate, is putting together a centrist agenda for the forthcoming UP election, focusing on good governance and addressing community dis-

tions in Bihar, UP, and MP, which account for a fourth of the parliament, national politics has to change for good. So, let us hold our breath till 2012.

### Unique feature

It will be first serious elections in the country that will witness a four corner contest hence the margin of victory is likely to be extremely thin in majority of the 402 seats. Normally the assembly elections are two or three cornered ( For e.g. Bihar - JD(U)+BJP Vs RJD+LJP & Congress Or Tamil Nadu - AIDMK Vs DMK Or Maharastra - Congress+ NCP Vs BJP+SS)

High Stakes for parties / leaders

# HIGH-STAKE GAME

WHICH ARE THE MAIN PARTIES AND THEIR KEY PLAYERS



## Congress / RLD Combine: UP Polls pose challenge to Rahul Gandhi

Rahul Gandhi, faces challenging times ahead with Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls not far away. Gandhi has set his eyes on Uttar Pradesh where Assembly polls are due in a year's time to help his party capture power in a state where he led revival of the organisation by securing 22 of the 80 seats in Parliamentary elections in 2009.

After nearly four decades of virtually uninterrupted rule, Congress is in political wilderness in the state since 1989 in the wake of the Mandal and the Mandir surge. Gandhi is being projected by the party as the potential prime minister and future leader with senior leaders like Digvijay Singh noting that he has all the "qualities and capabilities" that are needed for a "good" prime minister.

The year gone by was not good for Gandhi as Congress fared poorly in Assembly polls in Bihar despite the young leader virtually leading the campaign there. In Tamil Nadu too, Congress turned a flop even though he campaigned and also made a pitch for some



WILL AJIT SINGH'S (ABOVE) DEAL WITH CONGRESS PROVE TO BE A CLINCHER?



**WILL HE MAKE A DIFFERENCE:** RAHUL IS ALL SET TO LAUNCH HIS UP CAMPAIGN FROM PHULPUR, THE CONSTITUENCY OF PANDIT NEHRU

for some young candidates.

#### Rahul Factor

UP has been Rahul's focus of attention from even before the last Lok Sabha elections. In fact, his charisma was believed to be largely responsible for the party's tally going up from 1 to 21 in the 2009 general elections. No wonder then that Rahul's frequent visits to the state are making the other main parties – the BSP, the SP, and the BJP – jittery.

While the leaders of these parties dismiss the Rahul charisma as a figment of Congress's imagination, the protests against the Amethi MP by their workers and

supporters betray their nervousness. At least, this is what the Congress claims. The party's UP spokesperson Akhilesh Pratap Singh said: "The 2012 election would be a matter of life and death for these political parties.

Claiming that the people of UP were looking at Rahul with great hope, state Congress president Rita Bahuguna Joshi said: "He has decided to attend our meeting on Tuesday, within a week of his previous programme in the state capital, because he wants to bring change in UP next year.

"So we can understand the frustration of Mayawati and other parties.... And the SP

and the BJP are organising violent protests against Rahul in presence of the state police because they don't see any hope in constructive politics." THE Opposition parties pooh-pooh the Congress's claims. Justifying the protests against Rahul, the BJP's state chief, Surya Pratap Shahi, said:

"Protest is a democratic instrument. Rahul himself admitted during his interaction with the students in Varanasi that the (UPA's) poverty measures have failed. So, we will keep on protesting against the misrule of the Congress-led UPA."

SP's Shivpal S.Yadav denied that Rahul's stature was growing. "He is a celebrity because he belongs to Nehru-Gandhi family. He has failed to impress the students and his party, which is in power at the Centre, is playing in the hands of hoarders and black marketers."

The BSP state chief S.P. Maurya said: "Rahul's politics will not work in UP because the Congress is responsible for its backwardness. We don't take him seriously." Will the rivals explain why they are targeting the Congress scion if they don't take him seriously?

To revive the party fortune in Western UP, Congress is likely to finalise arrangement with RLD - party led by Ajit Singh. Tactically, it may tilt balance in Congress RLD combine because Muslims of western UP may prefer to vote for this alliance against a direct contest with BJP in certain urban seats.

But Congress is suffering tremendous in UP because of the lack of grass root leadership and workers. The last mass based Congress leader that UP had was N D Tewari ( 1990 ) but post Babri Masjid demolition and emergence of BJP, none of the state Congress leader has emerged to rally on the various communities for the party. Party lost Muslims to Sawajwadi Party, Dalits to BSP Party and Upper Caste to BJP hence the vote share of the Congress came crashing down from about 40% ( 1947-1989 ) to less than 10% in successive election post 1990. Congress central leadership is trying to hard sell Rahul Gandhi in UP but electorate knows that his interest in confined to National politics hence to shift them from regional parties ( SP, BSP ) would be extremely difficult for the Congress policy makers. Congress must has to build a strong vibrant state leadership if it wants to remain a strong political force in UP. Forging strategic alliances, tieups, and friendly fights will lead to more erosion of core Congress votes.

**Important state leaders|** Beni Prasad Verma, Pramod Tiwari, Rita Bahuguna

BJP - BJP rope in Uma Bharti Ahead of UP Elections

## BJP rope in Uma Bharti Ahead of UP Elections



SAFFRON POWER: UMA BHARTI

With Uma Bharti who is projected as the backward face of BJP, BJP is trying to revive its Upper caste+OBC (backward classes) vote bank. The rise of BJP post 1991 was largely based on the synergy formed between Hindu vote bank that comprises of upper caste with backwards classes. It was the unique formula that led to BJP vote bank almost reached 35% of popular vote bank in UP ( 1991-2004 ) but exit of Kalyan Singh forced backward classes to slip to various different verticals namely SP, BSP, RLD, RKP etc hence crippling the formidable vote bank of BJP.

Bharti who has launched a campaign to clean river Ganga said "The BJP also has a resolve to steer the country in the right direction," she said. On Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's march to highlight problems of farmers, Bharti said "there is a government of his party at the Centre. The Prime Minister also belongs to his party. Why can't they enact a strong law for the purpose?" On land acquisition, she said the affected persons should be adequately compensated.

Slamming the Mayawati government, Bharti, who rejoined the BJP recently, said the law and order had collapsed in the state.

But Kalyan Singh factor may dent BJP prospects in the coming 2012 elections because backward class in UP identify themselves with babri masjid demolition poster boy. UP elections: Kalyan Singh rules out merger with BJP.

Another factor that BJP is lacking in is the lack of mass base state leadership emerging from UP. Rajnath Singh and Kalraj Misra are the top contenders for the Chief Ministerial post but both lack charisma to attract communities outside their own respective community hence limiting scope of vertical expansion in terms of votes

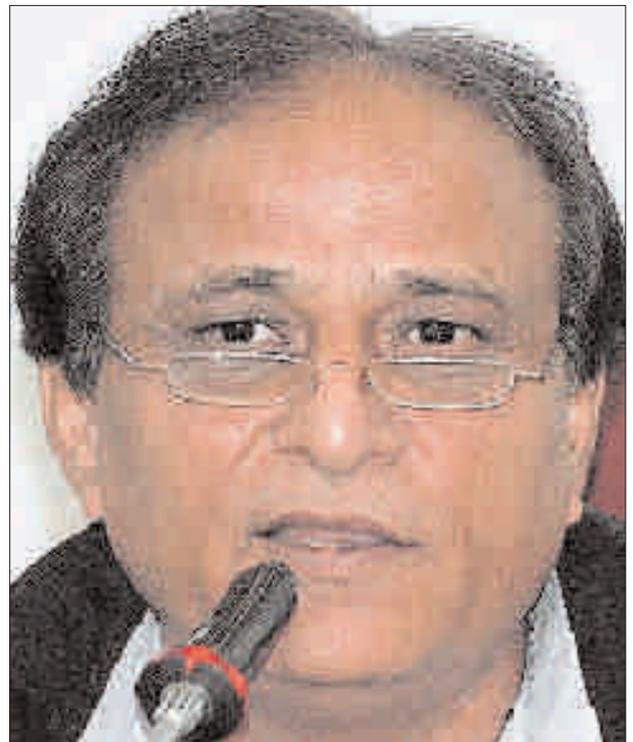
to be polled. BJP and RSS has forced Uma Bharti entry to garner backward votes, leading to neutralization of Kalyan Singh factor though it is highly unlikely that she will tilt major percentage in favour of BJP. Though the emergence of regional outfit namely Peace Party will benefit BJP tactically wherein in it will divide crucial Muslim vote in the east UP hence leading to direct loss to SP / CONG / BSP.

Important state leaders - Rajnath Singh, Kalraj Misra, Vinay Katiyar, Yogi Awadh Nath

## SP desperately woos Muslim for electoral gains

With less than a year to go for the UP Assembly Elections a mud-slinging match between the poll players has begun. While the four main parties-Congress, BJP, SP and BSP-blame each other for all the ills in the state the smaller outfits hold these four responsible for the slow rate of development in the state. Every decision and action of the parties is governed with an eye on elections. As elections in the state are fought basically on caste and communal lines, the parties are trying to outwit each other to woo a particular caste or community. And Muslims who constitute about one-fourth of the electorate and are a deciding factor in 130 Assembly and 24 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state, so parties particularly the Samajwadi Party and Congress are leaving no stone unturned to woo the community in showering their largess on them.

Muslims who traditionally supported the Congress were alienated by the party after its dubious policy on Babri Masjid, the shilanyas etc. and finally the Muslims deserted it in favour of the SP after the demolition of the mosque. Ever since all efforts by the Congress to win back the community's trust and loyalty faith has failed except in the last Lok Sabha elections when angry with the Samajwadi Party for hobnobbing with Kalyan Singh, the architect of the demolition, a section of Muslims voted for the Congress. Much water has flown down the Ganga since. Now realizing his mistake,



COMEBACK MAN: AZAM KHAN



**CYCLIST ON MISSION:** AKHILESH YADAV HAS LAUNCHED HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN

the Samajwadi Party for hobnobbing with Kalyan Singh, the architect of the demolition, a section of Muslims voted for the Congress. Much water has flown down the Ganga since. Now realizing his mistake, and the importance of the Muslim vote the SP has distanced itself from Kalyan and has expelled former general secretary Amar Singh, allegedly responsible for bringing Kalyan Singh close to the party. With Azam Khan, the Muslim face of the party back in its fold, the party now hopes to win back the Muslim electorate. On the other hand Congress is pinning its hope on the secular and clean image of its young leader Rahul Gandhi and disillusionment of the community with regional outfits.

But some Muslim outfits which have decided to jump into the poll fray may play spoilsports to the SP and Congress plans. The three main parties—Peace Party, Ulema Council and newly formed Welfare Party—encouraged by the pattern of Muslim voting in recently concluded elections in Assam, West Bengal and Kerala, consider their prospects bright in UP as the Peace Party president Dr. Mohammad Ayub has said 'It is only natural that Muslims feel let down by parties like Congress and SP which they trusted for years but in return did not get any concrete rewards for their loyalty. No issues of the community was ever solved by these parties which is why there is a plethora of Muslim outfits coming up and doing well in elections. The voting pattern in UP elections is bound to change given these changed perceptions.'

With this objective in view and also to consolidate non-Congress and non-BJP votes the Peace Party has already forged an alliance with the Lok Dal, Indian Justice party, Lok Kranti Morcha, Bharatiya Lokhit Party and Janawadi Party to form Lok Kranti Morcha. While the alliance and also the Ulema Council have decided to contest all assembly seats the Welfare Party has commissioned a survey to identify the pockets where it would be at an advantage because of concentration of Muslim population. The party is also trying to bring together Deobandi and Bareilvi sects besides other minorities, SCs

and OBCs under one political umbrella.

All the three parties have a similar agenda—to give Muslims and other minorities and weaker sections their due which has so long been denied by the Congress and other parties who have used them as vote banks—but pursuing it separately. In the past also a number of parties tried to achieve this goal but failed mainly because each of them claimed to represent the community without having the infrastructure and support base required to win an election and the leaders' larger than life ego prevented them from providing a united front as was seen in recently held elections in Assam and Kerala. But the Muslim leaders, it seems have not learnt from past experience. Ulema Council that was formed by Amir Rashadi of Azamgarh in the aftermath of the Batla House encounter could not even win the Lok Sabha byelection in the district but only facilitated the victory of the BJP which won the seat for the first time due to the division of Muslim votes engineered by the council. Still the party feels that it will win the elections and has decided to contest all assembly seats.

The Peace Party, with its good performance in the Dumariyaganj byelection and alliance with some smaller outfits is better placed. But its support base too does not go beyond some districts of eastern UP. As for the Welfare Party it is still surveying the constituencies but its mission to unite all Muslim factions to form a united platform is laudable. But how far it succeeds in its mission only time will tell. Elections are still about 6 months away. Alliances will be made and broken during this period. If the Muslim leaders belonging to whichever party are really pained at the plight of Muslims and have the same mission and goal to help the community they must rise above their narrow self interests and come together on a single platform to avoid a split of Muslim votes. In unity lies strength and it is with this mantra they can get maximum benefit in elections and become a force to reckon with. Otherwise they may end up unconsciously helping the communal and divisive forces.



**WAITING IN THE WINGS:** MULAYAM SINGH YADAV

this mantra they can get maximum benefit in elections and become a force to reckon with. Otherwise they may end up unconsciously helping the communal and divisive forces.

Aging sole leader Mulayam Singh Yadav is the last hope for SP revival in the UP2012 elections, unfortunately he is unfit to carry on hectic campaign for the party. His son Akhilesh Yadav is the face of SP in the coming elections wherein he is canvassing hard since last two months. It is highly unlikely that in a four cornered contest, SP performance will be more than average ( 100 seats ), hence a post election collision with other secular parties ( Cong / RLD ) can be a likely scenario.

**Important state leader** | Akhilesh Yadav, Md Azam Khan

## Bahujan Samaj Party: Will Mayawati hold on in 2012 UP Elections?

**A**fter erecting massive statues of herself all over UP and that issue about garlands Mayawati now proceeds to use her security men as a tabalchi - a name for shoe cleaners and menders in the Army during the British Raj.

It may have been going on for some time now but this act was caught on camera yesterday. Yes, that is what it is, prior to rally, Mayawati has been caught on camera clearly pointing to her footwear, the effect of which is that the Deputy Superintendent of



Paswan's and Mulayam Singh Yadavs of India which forces UP's people to have to take the brunt of other people's illogical and ungrateful ire and ridicule.

It is in fact because of this rut which UP was stuck in even after 20 years after Independence that the people of UP allowed their loyalties to sway from the Congress party. Corruption along with anti incumbency and the certain law and order issues should be enough for the voter to drift from BSP but, Dalit to press a button other than the Elephant when he goes to vote in the 2012 assembly elections is highly unlikely.

Now of course one reason for Mayawati's dominance of politics in UP has been a lack of formidable opponents. Samajwadi party's politics is even pettier than the politics of Mayawati and Congress and BJP have no major superstars amongst their ranks who come from UP. Plus Mayawati enjoys core support of her caste ( Dalit ) that forms about 20% of the entire population of UP.

**Important state leaders** | Nassemuddin Siddiqui, Swami Prasad Murya

## The fifth factor

UP 2012 elections will throw huge elected members from small unknown outfits and independent candidates because of part disillusionment with the mainstream political parties. Anna movement has consolidated this perception that main political outfits in the country are selfish and corrupt.

People are gradually asking questions on the family run political outfits, true democracy within democracy, lack of transparency in the political setup, corruption, nepotism etc. The recent successes of certain regional parties are the reflection of people growing concern on the above stated subjects.

It is expected that UP 2012 elections will have sizable numbers of independent / small parties elected members leading to unpredictable post elections scenario.

RKP party led by former BJP CM Kalyan Singh is likely to hit BJP comeback prospects badly. RKP is strong in Western belt of UP and a swing of 5% vote against BJP in 121 western seats in favour of RKP is expected to cost 15-17 seats to BJP that it would have surely won if RKP merge itself with BJP.

Peace Party led by Dr Ayub is likely to hurt Samajwadi Party in Eastern UP where in it is likely to swing over 10% Muslim vote away from SP party, hence costing over 18-20 seats to SP.

**Important leaders** | Kalyan Singh, Dr Ayub, Anupriya Patel, Ajit Singh, Kartar Singh Bhadana, Amar Singh ( ailing )

## SPOILER?: KALYAN SINGH WILL DENT BJP'S PROSPECTS

of Police rushes to her, produces a piece of cloth and then proceeds to clean her sandals. Sigh! wish we could have such loyal DSP's for ourselves, but we don't because well..

This at a time when there are serious issues being raised about Mayawati's government (at least at the national level - people who are out of her spell... if that is what she has cast on the people of UP) and well one has to wonder really if all of this will make an impact on Mayawati's and her party BSP's chances of winning the 2012 elections in UP.

First there was the Banda rape case, where an MLA of her party had raped a minor Dalit girl and then had the local police imprison the girl on charges of theft. Only when the national media got whiff of this and played the story continuously did Mayawati eventually wake up, a case of rape was registered and the MLA was sent to the lockup, however the girl only came out after spending 30 days in jail. Where else in the world would you find such a thing - a politician rapes a girl, the girl goes to the police to register an FIR but the police charges her wrongly with theft and throw

her into jail? I guess only in B grade Bollywood movie scripts and dictatorships in very very backward countries in Africa is the answer. - No comment throughout from Mayawati.

Yes, Mayawati with her social engineering has managed to capture the people's imagination for some time now but will all of these incidents which have just happened one year before the elections raise the voter's ire beyond the tipping point? It definitely should but some feel that Mayawati enjoys the support of people of UP of the kind that Narendra Modi enjoys from the people of Gujarat. I don't think that is the case however, while Gujarat has continued to prosper and as neighboring Bihar races ahead, UP has been stuck in a complete godforsaken rut.

In fact it has been stuck in a rut since it was Congress's bastion. People of UP are forced to migrate elsewhere and look for livelihoods, build cities and towns by toiling behind the scenes for years and what do they get in return? Ridicule and sometimes the ire of people from other states for actually no fault of their own. It is governments like that of BSP, Mayawati, Lalu Yadav,



GOVT FIREFIGHTERS: KHURSHEED, SIBAL AND MOILY

# The great Lokpal Bill 2011 debate...

## ... a historic opportunity to clean up the mess but?

**T**he UPA government headed by Mr clean Dr Manmohan Singh is sitting over a historic opportunity to clean up the corruption mess that is prevalent in the country. But rather than gunning for the corrupt and corruption, government's Lokpal seems to be gunning for those who complain against corruption. It is true that Lokpal panel should have accountability to the system and elected government sovereignty should never be undermined, but government of the day looks like opposing the entire process is not doing justice to its own cause.

How will Government's Lokpal work?

Suppose some citizen files a complaint to Lokpal against some corrupt government

**Before the investigations actually start, the government servant can file a cross complaint against the citizen straight to the special court, without any preliminary enquiry by any agency, that the complaint is false or frivolous. The government will provide free advocate to the government servant to file this case. The citizen will have to defend himself on his own!**

servant. Before the investigations actually start, the government servant can file a cross complaint against the citizen straight to the special court, without any preliminary enquiry by any agency, that the complaint is false or frivolous. The government will provide free advocate to the government servant to file this case. The citizen will have to defend himself on his own!

Then there is stiffer punishment for the complainant than the corrupt government servant. If the Special Court concludes that the complaint is frivolous or false, the citizen faces a minimum of two years of punishment. But if the corruption charges against government servant are proved, there is a minimum of six months of punishment for the corrupt government ser-

there is a minimum of six months of punishment for the corrupt government servant!

Government's Lokpal will have jurisdiction over all NGOs in the country but it will have jurisdiction over less than 0.5% of all government employees.

Government argued that the Lokpal would get overwhelmed with too many cases if all public servants were brought under its ambit. So, government has restricted its jurisdiction only to 65,000 Group A officers. Also, state employees will not be covered by Lokpal. There are 4 million central government employees and 8 million state government employees.

In sharp contrast, all NGOs are covered under government's Lokpal, small or big, whether in state or centre. Even unregistered groups of people in remote villages are covered under the ambit of Lokpal. So, in a remote village, if a group of youngsters detect corruption in panchayat works using RTI, the youngsters can be hauled up by Lokpal but Lokpal would not have jurisdiction over

Sarpanch, BDO or their corruption.

Whereas Lokpal would not have jurisdiction over Delhi government officials, it would have jurisdiction over all RWAs in Delhi. All small neighborhood groups who raise donations to do Ramllila or Durga Puja would be under Lokpal's scanner.

Lokpal could haul up activists from any of the farmers, labour, anti-corruption, land, tribal or any other movements. All the movements - whether registered or not, are under the jurisdiction of Lokpal.

There are 4.3 lakh registered NGOs. But there would be several million unregistered groups across the country. Lokpal would have jurisdiction over all of them.

No one can dispute the fact that corruption in NGOs needs to be addressed. But how can you leave most public servants out of Lokpal's purview but bring NGOs upto village level within its purview? Here are the points of stand-off between the government and the civil society on major issues:

## PRIME MINISTER

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal should have power to investigate allegations of corruption against PM. Special safeguards provided against frivolous and mischievous complaints

**GOVT VIEW:** PM kept out of Lokpal's purview.

**COMMENTS:** As of today, corruption by PM can be investigated under Prevention of Corruption Act. Government wants investigations to be done by CBI, which comes directly under him, rather than independent Lokpal

## JUDICIARY

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal should have powers to investigate allegation of corruption against judiciary. Special safeguards provided against frivolous and mischievous complaints

**GOVT VIEW:** Judiciary kept out of Lokpal purview.

**COMMENTS:** Government wants this to be included in Judicial Accountability Bill (JAB). Under JAB, permission to enquire against a judge will be given by a three member committee (two judges from the same court and retired Chief justice of the same court). There are many such flaws in JAB. We have no objections to judiciary being included in JAB if a strong and effective JAB were considered and it were enacted simultaneously.

## MPs

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal should be able to investigate allegations that any MP had taken bribe to vote or speak in Parliament.

**GOVT VIEW:** Government has excluded this from Lokpal's purview.

**COMMENTS:** Taking bribe to vote or speak in Parliament strikes at the foundations of our democracy. Government's refusal to bring it under Lokpal scrutiny virtually gives a license to MPs to take bribes with impunity.

## GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

**OUR VIEW:** Violation of citizen's charter (if an officer does not do a citizen's work in prescribed time) by an officer should be penalized and should be deemed to be corruption.

**GOVT VIEW:** No penalties proposed. So, this will remain only on paper.

**COMMENTS:** Government had agreed to our demand in the Joint committee meeting on 23rd May. It is unfortunate they have gone back on this decision.

## CBI

**OUR VIEW:** Anti-corruption branch of CBI should be merged into Lokpal.

**GOVT VIEW:** Government wants to retain its hold over CBI.

**COMMENTS:** CBI is misused by governments. Recently, govt has taken CBI out of RTI, thus further increasing the scope for corruption in CBI. CBI will remain corrupt till it remains under government's control



## SELECTION OF LOKPAL MEMBERS

**OUR VIEW:** 1. Broad based selection committee with 2 politicians, four judges and two independent constitutional authorities. 2. An independent search committee consisting of retired constitutional authorities to prepare first list. 3. A detailed transparent and participatory selection process.

**GOVT VIEW:** 1. With five out of ten members from ruling establishment and six politicians in selection committee, government has ensured that only weak, dishonest and pliable people would be selected. 2. Search committee to be selected by selection committee, thus making them a pawn of selection committee. 3. No selection process provided. It will completely depend on selection committee

**COMMENTS:** Government's proposal ensures that the government will be able to appoint its own people as Lokpal members and Chairperson. Interestingly, they had agreed to the selection committee proposed by us in the meeting held on 7th May. There was also a broad consensus on selection process. However, there was a disagreement on composition of search committee. We are surprised that they have gone back on the decision.

## WHO WILL LOKPAL BE ACCOUNTABLE TO?

**OUR VIEW:** To the people. A citizen can make a complaint to Supreme Court and seek removal.

**GOVT VIEW:** To the Government. Only government can seek removal of Lokpal

**COMMENTS:** With selection and removal of Lokpal in government's control, it would virtually be a puppet in government's hands, against whose seniormost functionaries it is supposed to investigate, thus causing serious conflict of interest.

## INTEGRITY OF LOKPAL STAFF

**OUR VIEW:** Complaint against Lokpal staff will be heard by an independent authority

**GOVT VIEW:** Lokpal itself will investigate complaints against its own staff, thus creating serious conflicts of interest

**COMMENTS:** Government's proposal creates a Lokpal, which is accountable either to itself or to the government. We have suggested giving these controls in the hands of the citizens.

## METHOD OF ENQUIRY

**OUR VIEW:** Method would be the same as provided in CrPC like in any other criminal case. After preliminary enquiry, an FIR will be registered. After investigations, case will be presented before a court, where the trial will take place.

**GOVT VIEW:** CrPC being amended. Special protection being provided to the accused. After preliminary enquiry, all evidence will be provided to the accused and he shall be heard as to why an FIR should not be regd against him. After completion of investigations, again all evidence will be provided to him and he will be given a hearing to explain why a case should not be filed against him in the court. During investigations, if investigations are to be started against any new persons, they would also be presented with all evidence against them and heard.

**COMMENTS:** Investigation process provided by the government would severely compromise all investigations. If evidence were made available to the accused at various stages of



investigations, in addition to compromising the investigations, it would also reveal the identity of whistleblowers thus compromising their security. Such a process is unheard of in criminal jurisprudence anywhere in the world. Such process would kill almost every case.

## LOWER BUREAUCRACY

**OUR VIEW:** All those defined as public servants in Prevention of Corruption Act would be covered. This includes lower bureaucracy.

**GOVT VIEW:** Only Group A officers will be covered.

**COMMENTS:** One fails to understand government's stiff resistance against bringing lower bureaucracy under Lokpal's ambit. This appears to be an excuse to retain control over CBI because if all public servants are brought under Lokpal's jurisdiction, government would have no excuse to keep CBI.

## LOKAYUKTA

**OUR VIEW:** The same bill should provide for Lokpal at centre and Lokayuktas in states. Only Lokpal at the centre would be created through this Bill.

**GOVT VIEW:** According to Mr Pranab Mukherjee, some of the CMs have objected to providing Lokayuktas through the same Bill. He was reminded that state

**COMMENTS:** Information Commissions were also set up under RTI Act through one Act only.

## WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal will be required to provide protection to whistleblowers, witnesses and victims of corruption

**GOVT VIEW:** No mention in this law.

**COMMENTS:** According to govt, protection for whistle-

blowers is being provided through a separate law. But that law is so bad that it has been badly trashed by standing committee of Parliament last month. The committee was headed by Ms Jayanthi Natrajan. In the Jt committee meeting held on 23rd May, it was agreed that Lokpal would be given the duty of providing protection to whistleblowers under the other law and that law would also be discussed and improved in joint committee only. However, it did not happen.

## SPECIAL BENCHES IN HC

**OUR VIEW:** High Courts will set up special benches to hear appeals in corruption cases to fast track them

**GOVT VIEW:** No such provision.

**COMMENTS:** One study shows that it takes 25 years at appellate stage in corruption cases. This ought to be addressed.

## CRPC

**OUR VIEW:** On the basis of past experience on why anti-corruption cases take a long time in courts and why do our agencies lose them, some amendments to CrPC have been suggested to prevent frequent stay orders.

**GOVT VIEW:** Not included

## DISMISSAL OF CORRUPT GOVT SERVANT

**OUR VIEW:** After completion of investigations, in addition to filing a case in a court for prosecution, a bench of Lokpal will hold open hearings and decide whether to remove the government servant from job.

**GOVT VIEW:** The minister will decide whether to remove a corrupt officer or not. Often, they are beneficiaries of corruption, especially when senior officer are involved. Experience shows that rather than removing corrupt people, ministers have rewarded them.

**COMMENTS:** Power of removing corrupt people from



jobs should be given to independent Lokpal rather than this being decided by the minister in the same department.

cisely those who would be under scanner. It would kill investigations.

## PUNISHMENT FOR CORRUPTION

**OUR VIEW:** 1. Maximum punishment is ten years  
2. Higher punishment if rank of accused is higher  
3. Higher fines if accused are business entities  
4. If successfully convicted, a business entity should be blacklisted from future contracts.

**GOVT VIEW:** None of these accepted. Only maximum punishment raised to 10 years.

## FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal 11 members collectively will decide how much budget do they need

**GOVT VIEW:** Finance ministry will decide the quantum of budget

**COMMENTS:** This seriously compromises with the financial independence of Lokpal

## PREVENT FURTHER LOSS

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal will have a duty to take steps to prevent corruption in any ongoing activity, if brought to his notice. If need be, Lokpal will obtain orders from High Court.

**GOVT VIEW:** No such duties and powers of Lokpal

**COMMENTS:** 2G is believed to have come to knowledge while the process was going on. Shouldn't some agency have a duty to take steps to stop further corruption rather than just punish people later?

## TAP PHONES

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal bench will grant permission to do so

**GOVT VIEW:** Home Secretary would grant permission.

**COMMENTS:** Home Secretary is under the control of pre-

## DELEGATION OF POWERS

**OUR VIEW:** Lokpal members will only hear cases against senior officers and politicians or cases involving huge amounts. Rest of the work will be done by officers working under Lokpal

**GOVT VIEW:** All work will be done by 11 members of Lokpal. Practically no delegation.

**COMMENTS:** This is a sure way to kill Lokpal. The members will not be able to handle all cases. Within no time, they would be overwhelmed.

## NGOs

**OUR VIEW:** Only government funded NGOs covered

**GOVT VIEW:** All NGOs, big or small, are covered.

**COMMENTS:** A method to arm twist NGOs

## FALSE, FRIVOLOUS AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS

**OUR VIEW:** No imprisonment. Only fines on complainants. Lokpal would decide whether a complaint is frivolous or vexatious or false.

**GOVT VIEW:** Two to five years of imprisonment and fine. The accused can file complaint against complainant in a court. Interestingly, prosecutor and all expenses of this case will be provided by the government to the accused. The complainant will also have to pay a compensation to the accused.

**COMMENTS:** This will give a handle to every accused to browbeat complainants. Often corrupt people are rich. They will file cases against complainants and no one will dare file any complaint. Interestingly, minimum punishment for corruption is six months but for filing false complaint is two years.



# Why fight against corruption is important: Swamy

**T**he entire world is watching as Indians attempt to purge India of corruption using classically Indian means of protest. Hindutva and Sanatana Dharma represent the only viable cures to the cancer of corruption which is destroying the entrails of our civilisation

Corruption in India is now a major concern because of the gigantic and mind boggling amounts illegally appropriated in the Satyam, IPL, CWG, and 2G Spectrum

scams. By all objective criteria, India today has by far one of the most corrupt governance. The 2G Spectrum Scam, the title of my new book released on June 11, is the most shocking rip-off of all.

As I have pointed out in the book, my curiosity was first fired by the fraud and forgery that became apparent in the sudden divestment of equity stake in Swan Capital Company by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani, the owner of ADAG who strategically controlled

Swan, in favour of the Shahid Balwas-run DB Realty Company, and reportedly on then Telecom Minister A Raja's behest. DB Realty then sold the controlling shares of Swan to Etisalat. This latter company was considered in a Home Ministry report to be a front for ISI and Dawood Ibrahim. Shahid Balwas was held by the Ministry to be an undesirable person. Yet, Etisalat was allowed by the Union Home Minister P Chidambaram to buy out the Swan

undesirable person. Yet, Etisalat was allowed by the Union Home Minister P Chidambaram to buy out the Swan Telecom at eight times the price paid by Swan for the 2G spectrum licence. National security was seriously compromised for greed of money.

I had written to the Prime Minister a letter dated November 29, 2008, for sanction under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (1988) to prosecute Telecom Minister A. Raja by filing a private complaint before the Designated Sessions Court. Thus began my venture into the 2G spectrum scam. The PM's procrastination led me to the Supreme Court.

Thereafter, a Bench of Justices Singhvi and Ganguli, by their meticulous reading of the briefs and documents filed and by their crisp orders and directions have changed the national public mood from despair and despondency to hope and expectation. This judicial intervention came none too soon. An international watchdog committee conducted a study on the illicit flight of money from India, perhaps the first ever attempt at shedding light on a subject steeped in secrecy, and concluded that India has been drained of \$462 billion (over Rs 20 lakh crore) between 1948 and 2008. The amount represents nearly 40 per cent of India's gross domestic product.

The unanimous view throughout the world today is that corruption is no more the inevitable grease or speed money to be tolerated in any system, but a cancer that could cause the death of a society by continuous debilitation - unless it is cured at an early stage.

The Indian financial system also suffers from a hangover of cronyism and corruption that have brought the government budgets on the verge of bankruptcy. This too needs fixing. India's infrastructure requires about \$ 150 billion to make it world class, and the education system needs 6 per cent of GDP instead of 2.8 per cent today. But an open competitive market system can find these resources provided the quality of governance and accountability is improved. Obviously a second generation of reforms is necessary for all this.

One of the worst problems with corruption in India is the creation of "black money"- money that is used in such transactions and is obviously unreported, hence is neither taxed nor is spent openly. It travels to secret bank accounts abroad, or, worse, is used by the corrupt to indulge in gross luxurious consumption and bribery. Such black money stock also creates inflation by enabling easy finance for hoarding of supplies even as the GDP growth rate accelerates.

Corruption, therefore, impacts on economic development of a nation in five dimensions:

1. Decisions taken for corrupt motive sub-optimises the allocation of scarce national resources and hence in the long run lowers the rate of growth in GDP. It also encourages buccaneers instead of innovative entrepreneurs.

2. By the use of bribe money which escapes the tax net and is mostly stashed away in banks abroad or in trunks in safe houses, is deployed in luxury goods purchase, ostentatious life, splurging in five star hotels, real estate, and on partying. This raises demand for luxury production and services, and in turn distorts investment priorities. In India, 70 per cent of the investment goes directly or indirectly to sustain the luxury sector.

3. Unaccounted bribe money is lent to hoarders and speculators who then cause artificial shortages and thus inflation and property bubbles.

4. Since the most in corrupt activities would be in public office, they enact laws to not only to safeguard the booty by lax criminal investigations and prosecutions, but to enable earning interest or return on the bribe money. The invention of Participatory Notes (PNs) and the Mauritius Tax & Capital Gains exemption treaties is aimed at that sordid objective (see below).

5. Corruption enables beneficiaries to involve foreign governments seeking influence and criminal gangs resident abroad to launder money and provide protection.

The view of Integral Humanism as propounded by Deendayal Upadhyaya or what we have for centuries have called as Sanatana Dharma is that a society is healthy only if there is a harmonisation of material pursuits and spiritual advancement in a human being. The social structure called Varna, till it degenerated into a birth-based social cartel, was designed to downgrade wealth as the indicator of status and elevate sacrifice and simplicity as a desirable value.

But now greed is driving all of us as it has become in the globalisation process. Materialistic progress alone however does not guarantee national security of a nation. What is essential is the character and integrity of its citizens. Hence, besides the objective of acquiring knowledge and getting employment that require cognitive intelligence, the youth must be motivated in other dimensions of intelligence that of emotional, moral and social.

In the United States, as Business Week has recently reported, these concepts have become highly popular in the corporate world, and have been incorporated in the best-selling books written by Daniel Goleman, Deepak Chopra, Anthony Robbins, among others.

In brief, our National Policy for integrating spiritual values and organisational leadership can be achieved by measures by which we can create a modern mindset in the youth of India, not only to motivate the youth to acquire technical competence, but to develop

emotional, moral social and spiritual values that will make that person a self-reliant individual of high character, patriotic, and possessing a social conscience.

Our goal has to be thus the efficient use of resources, human and physical, hardware and software by an able and human spiritually guided and ethically organizational leadership in a framework of competitive market economies.

Hence, concisely stated, for a corruption free society to be achieved on a long term basis the Indian economy should be founded on a harmonisation of efficient organisational leadership and abiding spiritual values which we call as Sanatana Dharma. That can be nurtured only bottom up i.e., educate our growth accordingly - to synthesise material pursuits with spiritual values which lauds simplicity and eschews greed.

Ultimately it will also be decided by how we vote in elections. But we need a new ideology to combat the cancer of corruption in our system. For this we need a new breed of Indian leaders- educated, courageous, and rational risk takers. That we can get only if the ethos of our people changes from the purely individualist pursuit of material pleasures and goals, to an integral outlook. Corruption is the cancer today in our society but Hindutva (Hinduness) or Sanatana Dharma imbibed character is the cure.

*The writer is president, Janata Party*





**NEW TIES:** NEW ERA IN INDO-JAPANESE TIES HAS BEGUN

# Japan to make India green: 24 green cities planned

Hemant Setya reports for OPINION EXPRESS from New Delhi

Japan is coming; rather they are consolidating their presence in India with an aggressive trade policy. Buoyed by a landmark free trade pact and the launch of nuclear negotiations, India and Japan are set to scale a new frontier in bilateral ties by launching 24 green cities in the proposed Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). 'Japan and India are planning to set up 24 green cities in the DMIC area,' Aftab Seth, a former Indian ambassador to Japan and a driving force behind the green initiative, told us in a Nikkie Eco meet jointly organized by India-Japan trade associations.

The green cities will include optimised energy supplies, 24-hour drinking water supply, bicycle and walking tracks, and waste and water recycling systems. Preparatory work has already started on pilot projects in seven green cities that will

**Envisaged as a global manufacturing and trading hub, DMIC is expected to be completed in five to seven years. 'Green cities and green technologies will be an important part of the DMIC. It will be like forging a sort of green alliance between India and Japan,' said Seth.**

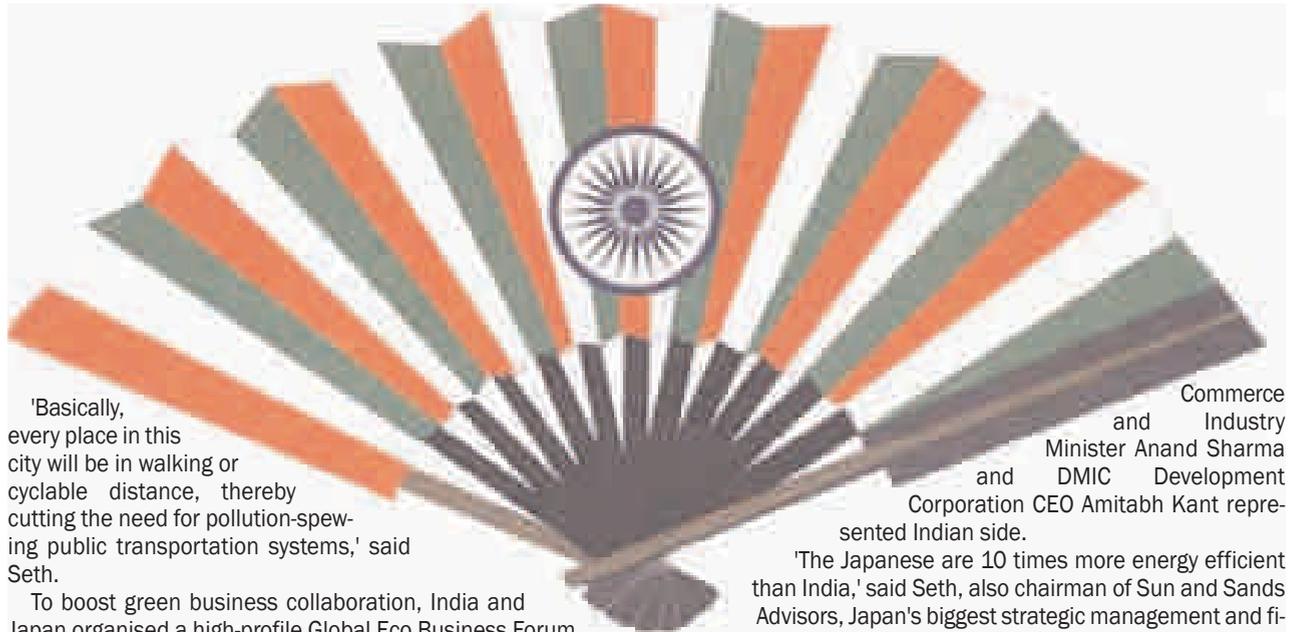
be part of the DMIC, which is bigger in area than Honshu, the largest Japanese island, said Seth. DMIC, spanning six Indian

states, is the most ambitious infrastructure project India has launched with Japan, a world leader in green technologies, and is expected to cost \$50-90 billion.

Envisaged as a global manufacturing and trading hub, DMIC is expected to be completed in five to seven years. 'Green cities and green technologies will be an important part of the DMIC. It will be like forging a sort of green alliance between India and Japan,' said Seth. The first of these cities will be developed in the Dholera investment region in Gujarat, 110 km from Ahmedabad.

Top Japanese companies like Hitachi, Mitsubishi and Toshiba shall be involved in designing and building eco-friendly towns along the DMIC that will pass through Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

'Basically, every place in this city will be



'Basically, every place in this city will be in walking or cyclable distance, thereby cutting the need for pollution-spewing public transportation systems,' said Seth.

To boost green business collaboration, India and Japan organised a high-profile Global Eco Business Forum on Nov 30 that saw the participation of top Japanese companies like Hitachi, Toshiba and Mitsubishi. Senior Japanese officials, including Masakazu Toyoda, and Ryuji Yanagihara, an expert on green cities, participated in the summit.

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Kamal Nath,

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma and DMIC Development Corporation CEO Amitabh Kant represented Indian side.

'The Japanese are 10 times more energy efficient than India,' said Seth, also chairman of Sun and Sands Advisors, Japan's biggest strategic management and financial advisory for cross-border business between India and Japan. 'It will be an opportunity for the Japanese to display to an influential and practising audience their talent in energy-saving devices and environment-friendly technologies,' he added.

The expanding green collaboration between India and Japan

also has a larger geo-strategic dimension as Japan looks at India's business potential afresh to counter China.

'The Japanese are steadily coming to the realisation that they have put too many eggs in the Chinese basket. There is an uneasiness with China. India is seen in Japan as a more lucrative market than Vietnam or Indonesia,' said Seth, adding the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Pact (CEPA) next month is going to give a big boost to business ties between the two countries.

Japan has focused India to be a strategic investment point because the growth story of India has just begun, there is an estimate by the world bank that Indian economy is expected to grow at over 9% in the entire next decade hence leading the GDP expected to cross \$3 trillion by 2020. The growing economy is seeking huge investment in infrastructure sector to keep up with the over-all growth story of the country. Japan is strategically promoting trade and commerce interest in India to participate in the tremendous investment opportunity of life time.





ASSEMBLY LINE: A JAPANESE WORK PLACE

# How do the Japanese do it?

Aftab Seth disseminated extremely valuable information for our readers about the Japanese work culture, style, preferences and mind set to our editor **Prashant Tewari**. Excerpts

**Q** Post recession, the strategic shift of global trade attention has shifted to Asia. China and India are the main growth engine of the global recovery. Japan is pioneer of cutting edge technology with surplus funds looking to for ideal investment opportunities. Now why India is having an advantage viz China if we put Japan strategic long term interest in loop?

A. Japan has a good deal of historical baggage with China on account of the war and the the exploitation of China from 1895 and the Sino Japanese war onwards till 1945.

Yet in cultural terms Japan is indebted to China . The script , the Confucian ethic and much of the technology relating to silk , pottery , lacquer ware and weaving came over the ages from China.

There is therefore a grudging admiration from historical times for China compound-

ed in recent years by the meteoric growth rates. Japan has exploited the new advantages presented by the Chinese market and has poured in many billions of Dollars

**Envisaged as a global manufacturing and trading hub, DMIC is expected to be completed in five to seven years. 'Green cities and green technologies will be an important part of the DMIC. It will be like forging a sort of green alliance between India and Japan,' said Seth...**

in investment in China.

Until recently the Japanese were not uncomfortable in doing business with China .

The growing assertiveness of China over the last 4 or 5 years has frightened many Japanese. The manner in which Chinese crowds attacked the Japanese embassy and consulates 5 years ago , in what appeared to be an orchestrated demonstration , combined with continuing friction over joint exploration for oil and gas has made the Japanese sit up and think.

In September 2010 the manner in which the Chinese bullied the Japanese into returning an arrested Chinese ship captain accused of ramming Japanese coast guard ships and then proceeded to stop the export of rare metals has really alarmed many Japanese.

India in comparison seems a less threatening country and equally a country of rapid growth.

The Japanese are diverting some of

try of rapid growth.

The Japanese are diverting some of their attention and their money towards India for these reasons. The existence of flagship projects like the DMIC, itself the product of a growing political and strategic relationship makes investment in India more worthwhile.

**Q** The Japanese are perfectionist hence the technology used by them is build of high cost, India on the other hand is a highly cost conscious market, how do you see the two fundamental difference creating synergies for mutual benefit?

A. Yes Japanese costs are high because they value the product of their labour. But service for Japanese products, their long lasting qualities and the reliability of Japanese equipment outweighs the higher cost in the long run.

**Q** Top Japanese brands are household names in India but at people to people level, Indian are close to North America, Europe block, why Japanese government in the past have not attempted to translate commercial success in comprehensive success to improve bilateral relations?

A. The reason for Indian focus on the USA and the UK is clearly the result of language and the existence of a diaspora of 4 to 5 million Indians in both territories. This has meant more students, a 100000 in the USA alone and more collaborative research for both the pure and the applied sciences. In contrast there are only 25000 Indians in Japan and a little over 500 students.

The Japanese are fully aware that they need to heighten the connections in academia and so have made concerted ef-



**.Maruti and TVS in Chennai are just 2 examples of Indian organizations trying to acquire the Japanese work ethic. loyalty to the company, pride in one's work, however humble or lowly it may be, a desire for perfection in execution and an ability to relax after work in the company of colleagues are just a few aspects of the Japanese work cul-**

orts to attract young talent from countries like India where the demographic graph is a rising one in contrast to Japan where the population is declining. The birth rate at 1.2 is not even replacement level so Japan is shrinking in numbers. The need to attract bright young Indians is obvious and universities like Keio have begun undergraduate classes in English in some campuses. The quality of Japanese technical education is high and Indians would benefit by going to study there. The trend must be encouraged by both sides.

**Q** DMIC is a most ambitious project undertaken by our government with external support, What role Japan is playing to structure the project - via government, quasi government and private sector initiatives?

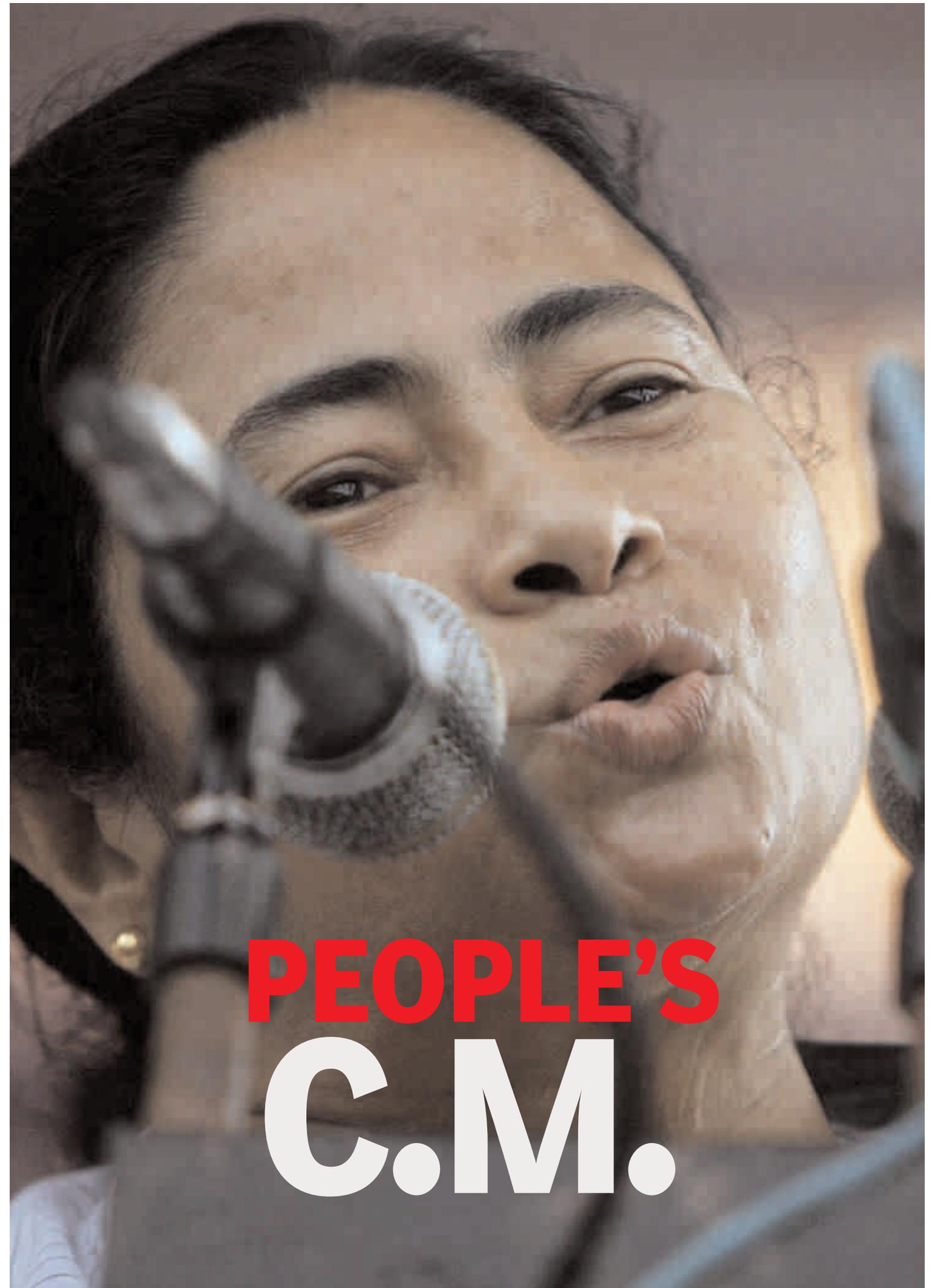
A. The Japanese embassy have recently added a title to the existing one for their Minister Economic and Commercial by calling him the Minister Infrastructure. This is significant in view of the important role being played by Japan in building India's infrastructure, underground railways and the entire DMIC. Jetro, JICA and METI in Japan are all equally engaged in promoting Japanese trade and investment. JETRO gives free accommodation to SMEs to help them set up offices here in India.

**Q** Tell us about the insight of Japanese work culture from the vast experience of working closely with them in the past?

A. Maruti and TVS in Chennai are just 2 examples of Indian organizations trying to acquire the Japanese work ethic. loyalty to the company, pride in one's work, however humble or lowly it may be, a desire for perfection in execution and an ability to relax after work in the company of colleagues are just a few aspects of the Japanese work culture.

They have highly developed vocational schools and so the quality of electricians, plumbers, packers, restaurant workers, chefs, railway or bus workers and a host of other professionals is much higher than most developed countries. India has much to learn from this aspect of Japan.





**PEOPLE'S**  
**C.M.**



MAMATA DURING AN ELECTION RALLY

# Mixed-bag beginning for Mamta in Kolkata

The firebrand leader is now the people's chief minister. Since May 20, when she walked into Writers' Buildings to take over the reins of the state, Mamata Banerjee has played the role zealously, often throwing protocol and norms out of the window to take up issues close to her heart. She works late, calls frequent meetings, keeps top officials on their toes, makes surprise visits to hospitals and government offices and takes decisions with an urgency rarely seen in the government headquarters.

As CM, she is just as unpredictable and at times restless. She springs surprises like the Darjeeling treaty, takes key decisions in haste only to roll them back, such as Singur ordinance. She shocked doctors when she stormed into Bangur Institute of Neurosciences and suspended its director, SP Ghorai, without issuing him a show-



**JOY OF VICTORY:** MAMATA SUPPORTERS AFTER TRINAMOOL WIN

suspended its director, SP Ghorai, without issuing him a showcause notice, on grounds of "insubordination".

Mamata is yet to take firm steps on curbing political violence with the opposition Left Front knocking at the governor's door to stop atrocities against its cadres.

She hurriedly introduced an ordinance for returning land to Singur farmers only to be called back due to procedural lapses. Later, the Singur Land Bill was passed by the Assembly to enable her return land to unwilling farmers in Singur.

The first month in office has been eventful, to say the least. She has managed to make ministers proactive, bureaucrats prompt with files and senior officials anxious about being ticked off for inaction. On her very first day in office, she worked well past midnight. She followed it up with a major announcement - of an imminent merger of the Salt Lake municipality with Kolkata. The next day, she went on a sudden tour of the city.

**She hurriedly introduced an ordinance for returning land to Singur farmers only to be called back due to procedural lapses. Later, the Singur Land Bill was passed by the Assembly to enable her return land to unwilling farmers in Singur**

She has also managed to throw up solutions. The separatist movement in Darjeeling, for instance, which has been festering for the last three years, was "solved". Gorkha Janmukti Morcha agreed to withdraw its demand for statehood for the time being. Critics may still question the pact, but the peace pact left the Hills euphoric.

On the way to office from her residence,

Mamata's convoy has been taking a different route every morning and halting at a new destination. Her securitymen have been kept guessing. She has paid a series of surprise trips to hospitals on the way to Writers'.

Apart from the return of Singur land - an issue that was key in catapulting her to power - she has invited Justice Sachar to the state for a fresh status report on the minority community, aimed at improving their condition and finding more jobs for them.

She has announced setting up of a 25-member core group to sort out problems faced by the industry and work out plans for investment. The panel will have 17 members from various chambers - including three from CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM - apart from state finance minister Amit Mitra, industries minister Partha Chatterjee and six departmental secretaries.

# DIDI'S MAJOR STEPS..

Soumen Acharya

## RETURN OF SINGUR LAND

It was Mamata's first decision after taking over as CM. The issue had propelled her to power and Singur Land Bill was passed in the Assembly

## EDUCATION GETS PRIORITY

Amartya Sen and historian Sugata Bose chosen mentors of Presidency University. A panel set up to revamp higher education. Mamata announces recruitment of 46,000 primary teachers. All teachers to now get their salaries on the first day of the month

## HEALTH WATCH

West Bengal Health Service Recruitment Board set up to recruit staff and doctors. Mamata makes surprise visits to government hospitals. Announces plans to set up four super-specialty hospitals in Birbhum, West Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura (the last three are Maoist-hit), plus a neuroscience hospital in Rajarhat township 4

## CITY UNIFICATION

Salt Lake's Sector V (tech hub) and Joka (where IIM Calcutta is located) on the outskirts of the capital brought under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Municipal Corporation

## FINALLY, BEAUTIFICATION

A project to beautify the Hooghly riverfront. The stretch from Dalhousie to Esplanade will be redone in tune with the BBD Bag heritage zone. Laldighi, a 300-year-old lake in front of Writers' Buildings, will be illuminated

## DARJEELING ICE-BREAKER

Within three weeks of taking charge, Mamata persuades GJM to sign a treaty for a hill council with greater powers. The Left Front government had tried the same solution but could not get GJM to agree. Mamata succeeded. Her education minister Bratya Basu already met Union HRD minister for an IIT or IIM in Darjeeling

## TRANSPARENCY

Paid Rs 2 lakh from her own account on renovation of CM's chamber at Writers' Building



## NEUTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Senior bureaucrats asked to function in a neutral manner; police told to work impartially in the wake of political violence across the state

## AND THE MISSTEPS

Hurriedly pushing with an ordinance on return of Singur land to unwilling farmers. The ordinance fell through because of procedural lapses. Later, the Singur Land Bill was passed in the Assembly

Says she will make public the Singur deal struck by the Left Front govt, when a case is pending in the Calcutta high court over the disclosure of the contents of the deal

Suspends Bangur Institute of Neurology S P Ghorai without issuing a showcase notice

## Comment

Mamata Banerjee popularly known as Mamata Didi has just started her political innings in West Bengal, ironically the

state of WB is with left since last 34 years but a tremendous effort by Mamata Banerjee has forced a new regime there. The domestic and overseas observers are watching the initial progress and her style of governance closely largely from an investors prospective. WB in general and its capital Kolkata in specific were the center of business hub post independence but the scenario forced industry to get shifted to other states due to labour unrest and lock outs instigated by left governments, now Mamata Didi with an economist as the finance minister is trying to turn the tables. Already, she has achieved a major breakthrough in settling the Gorkha-land issue via talks with good results. WB government has listed priorities in EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, HEALTH CARE hence Japan G 30 initiative, Japan Business Chamber of Commerce & Embassy must draw a strategy to coordinate with the state government..

(Bureau Chief - Kolkata)

# Starry dreams

## Urvashi Sharma



**ABOUT MYSELF:** I always had a dream to be a part of this huge industry ie. film industry since my childhood. I grew up with this dream silently as I belonged to a family where education was of prime importance. I wanted to be a part of Miss India contest when I turned 18 but didn't happen because of my family. Soon after completing my Graduation, I applied for my MBA degree again from same University.

And now after completing my studies got into this profession which is now well known as an entertainment industry. As I loved studies equally I am still pursuing one. I am since 3 to 4 months in this industry.

**EDUCATION:** Graduate from Mumbai university  
MBA in finance from Mumbai university; Pursuing CFA (Indian); A student of law in 1st year from Mumbai university

**INSPIRATION:** An inbuilt thought that this is what I am and this is what I would love to do all my life.

**INDIAN AND GLOBAL MARKETS:**

I believe fashion is perpetual. So lots to learn from Indian fashion and lots to grow with global industry.

Modeling for me Passion or business:- It's passion + business = reality, attainment of goal

**HOBBIES-** Dancing, swimming, basket ball, lawn tennis....

**MOTTO:** To be a better "Me" each day

**WORK:** Prints, Catalog's and ad

**WORK PROFILE:** Bharat matrimony elite, Coke Pakistan, Garden Varelli  
TVS vego, kathak saree, Digjam suitings, Mobilink

**ACTING:** Nadira Babbar theatre workshop

**DANCE:** Bollywood, shiamak davar, ashley lobo and kathak

**HEIGHT:** 5'6"

**VITAL STATS:** 32-26-35



# First Drive



## 2011 BMW 5 SERIES IS A SMOOTH OPERATOR

The outgoing BMW 5 Series may have ushered in a dramatic leap forward in terms of dynamics, technology, safety and creature comforts, but it's the previous generation – the E39 – that Bimmerphiles still speak of in hushed tones. The departing E60 may have been a more capable package, but it was also the source of much controversy and hand wringing. Blame Chris Bangle. Blame byzantine iDrive menu structures. Blame spirit-muffling layers of electronics. Hell, blame improved competition or hidebound brand loyalists who refuse to accept the new. No matter whose camp you point the finger at, the 2004-2010 5 Series was a polarizing creature, both aesthetically and from behind the wheel. Despite (or perhaps because of) all this, BMW enjoyed record-setting global sales of the Fiver, suggesting that that the traditionalists had it all wrong.

**As he points out, BMW design has a tendency to periodically muscle in with big, bold, design statements – to knock down walls – and in the follow-up model, its stylists can move about a bit more in the clean air made possible by its predecessor. Fair enough – we prepared to check our Weltschmerz at the door and give this new Fiver a shot.**

Still, one look at the new-for-2011 F10 model might reasonably lead you to believe that a bit of mulligan has occurred at the hand of Adrian van Hooydonk and his design team – a toning down of the E60's most divisive elements. To be sure, the

E60's Dame Edna spectacles have been consigned to a dusty drawer and the raised "Bangle Butt" has kept its date with Celebrity Fit Club. In the not-so-dearly departed's place is a handsome new sedan that appears simultaneously more in line with the 5 Series' lineage yet firmly set on the future. But to label the sixth-generation Fiver as an aesthetic or strategic regression would be incorrect, van Hooydonk tells us. As he points out, BMW design has a tendency to periodically muscle in with big, bold, design statements – to knock down walls – and in the follow-up model, its stylists can move about a bit more in the clean air made possible by its predecessor. Fair enough – we prepared to check our Weltschmerz at the door and give this new Fiver a shot. Has it all been worked out for the better? BMW invited us to hop a couple of planes to Portugal in order to find out.

## REV IT UP

In person, a lower roofline and a stretched wheelbase (at 116.9-inches, it's 3.2 inches longer than the E60, making it the broadest in the segment) have combined to give the 2011 5 Series a markedly sleeker appearance. The swage line that originates from just behind the front fenders and gets progressively more defined as it moves rearward lends directional thrust, as does its more aggressively shaped greenhouse.

Wide, nearly vertical kidney grilles are attached to a snub nose, and even if the headlamps are now more conservative, the more upright grilles suggest that BMW is pondering a return to the forward-leaning, shark-like front end that defined its history. Indeed, AvH tells us that the sportier the model, the more pronounced we can expect this design hallmark to be (see the E89 Z4 for guidance). Overall, this is a confident, well-balanced shape, a clear design unencumbered by the shouty details of its antecedent. All-in, BMW says that the automatic-equipped 535i weighs in at 4,090 pounds, about 100 pounds portlier than a comparably equipped outgoing model – remarkably little in view of its added size, rigidity (+55 percent over the E60) and technology.



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Underneath its controversial skin, the outgoing E60 ushered in a new era of high-tech solutions for the 5 Series in virtually every arena, from driving dynamics to creature comforts to safety and overall efficiency.

In this regard, with the F10, BMW has buried the throttle more firmly into the carpet than ever before. New engines, gearboxes, suspension architecture, rear-wheel steering, user-selectable adaptive drive settings, brake energy regeneration, and yes, another generation of iDrive have been whipped up in a bid to keep the 5 out in front of the new Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Audi A6 and Jaguar XF.

The new single-turbo N55 engine just plain works, with eager revs and a wonderfully flat power curve.

Interestingly, it wasn't more than a few months ago that we found ourselves on many of these very same Portuguese roads behind the wheel of another new 5 Series – the 2010 Gran Turismo. Visually,

the 5GT may be something of an automotive platypus, but dynamically it proved beyond reproach, setting lofty expectations for this new sedan in the process. Appropriately, a quick ride from the airport in the back of the 5GT before we tucked into the 535i sedan reminded us why the bifold hatchback model exists – space. The longer wheelbase of the 5GT creates epic, limo-like accommodations for rear-seat passengers, with palatial legroom and commanding visibility. Its straight-laced new brother?

Comparatively tight back there (albeit class competitive), a situation that figures to be the same with the Touring – a model we're no longer likely to get with this new generation.

Of course, a sport sedan like the 5 Series isn't purchased for the measure of its back seat, so with the keys (okay, fob) to the new 535i firmly in hand, we headed out onto the lilting coastal roads and motorways northwest of Lisbon to see

if we could rekindle a lost Love Connection.

As we slipped aboard for the first time, all was at once familiar yet utterly new. From its three-spoke steering wheel to its Brobdingnagian 10.2-inch navigation screen, sturdy switchgear, iDrive porkpie, finicky drive selector and general shapes and materials, the 535i reminds of the 5GT and the new 7 Series, yet it carries its own dashboard design. While evolutionary, it's a beautifully executed space, with long, clean lines and ergonomically sound primary and secondary controls. As with its newer stablemates, the 5 Series receives a much more intuitive fourth-generation iDrive all-in-one controller, and with its rationalized menu structures and direct-function buttons surrounding the central controller knob, it's a system that's finally beginning to make some sense.

While we liked (okay, adored) the outgoing 5 Series' N54 3.0-liter twin-turbo inline six, the 535i receives a new single turbo engine dubbed N55, and it offers exactly the same 300 horsepower and 300 pound-feet of torque. So why bother? Because BMW's smarty-pants engineers have imbued the new motor with superior packaging, cleaner emissions and better throttle response. About that last bit – if you're wondering how a single, larger turbo can be quicker to respond than a pair of smaller units, BMW has cracked the code with the combination of a dual-scroll element and the company's Valvetronic throttle-less intake technology. Suffice it to say that the N55 just plain works, with eager revs and a wonderfully flat power curve (the engine's torque cup runneth over from just 1,200 on through 5,000 rpm). BMW says 60 miles-per-hour can be cracked in 5.7 seconds and top speed is limited to 130 mph – 150 mph if you spring for the Sport Package.





On the track in Sport + mode, the big Fiver's mid-corner stance is flatter than your first girlfriend.

For the gluttonous, a turbocharged 4.4-liter V8-powered 550i with 400 hp and 450 lb-ft. will be offered, along with a late-availability 528i with 240 horses. While we're sure that the 550i's extra power is nice, the lighter weight, viceless performance and presumably superior fuel economy of the N55 (no EPA numbers are available yet) has us convinced that it's once again good to be the middle child. As ever, European customers will get a range of diesel offerings, but there are no plans to offer any such models in North America. All-wheel drive variants, however, are in the pipeline for later this year.

A six-speed manual will be available in the 535i and 550i, but at the launch event, we were limited to torque converter-equipped 535i models. For 2011, there's a new ZF automatic with five clutches(!) and eight forward gears(!!) that offers a wider ratio spread. In the past, we've found that transmissions with this many speeds are prone to hunting, as if their software logic is somehow trying to justify the inclusion of so many cogs. The 5 Series largely avoids this trap, although we

did notice a tendency to cycle annoyingly between gears at very low speeds under shallow throttle openings (think: nudging forward in bumper-to-bumper traffic). Notably, BMW is ditching the chrome push-pull paddle-shifters used on other models in favor of traditional pull tabs (right to upshift, left to downshift) – apparently some people found the old Anish Kapoor chrome thumbsculptures hard to use. The new ones work just fine, but we miss the older version's dual +/- action and subtle artistic quality.

For 2011, the 5 Series has discarded its long-serving Macpherson strut front suspension in favor of a new multi-link arrangement.

The rear end is now also under the sway of a new five-link system, and coupled with BMW's Dynamic Damping Control (read: adaptive suspension) and Active Roll Stabilization (dynamic anti-roll bars), the whole works is at once at ease and eager to please. By that we mean that the ride quality is free from harshness without being floaty, yet it's ready to boogie at a moment's notice.

Word that the F10 would be the first 5 with electric power steering didn't exactly warm our enthusiast cockles, nor did

news that all 535i evaluators at the launch would be equipped with optional Integral Active Steering, a variable-ratio system that first made its appearance on the outgoing model. Thankfully, this is a new IAS system, as the first-generation setup never won any prizes for its communicability. Still, we were concerned that EPS and IAS' new active rear steering feature might contribute to feel-free handling, or worse, spooky dynamics. Nope. The Bavarian boys and gals have worked diligently to assuage all fears, and whether we were zipping along the littoral mountain roads, drumming along the motorway, or hammering around all 13 turns of Portugal's 2.6-mile Autódromo do Estoril, the 535i was rock solid, predictable and forgiving. Unlike many other EPS systems we've used, this one doesn't feel like there's an Internet's worth of silicony busily rearranging ones and zeros to turn the driver's inputs into action. The variable ratio shouldn't be off-putting during daily commuting, and on serpentine roads, it's a genuine ally – there's actual linearity, weighting and more than a modicum of feedback for one's fingertips to process as you spin the wheel just 2.1 turns from lock-to-lock. Hallelujah.

Out on the track, with the optional Driving Dynamics Control rocker switch toggled to its raciest Sport + mode (the other three settings: Comfort, Normal and Sport), this big Fiver's mid-corner stance is flatter than your first girlfriend. The steering gains weight and speed without feeling artificial, the gearbox's marching orders are rejiggered to keep engine revs up and reduce shift times, and the electronic limited-slip tech and relaxed traction and stability control algorithms yield a surprisingly frisky big sedan. While you're never going to convince yourself you're dive-bombing in a Z4, this is a car that shrinks handily at speed, in part because the brakes are pleasingly firm and 18-inch Dunlop Sport Maxx GT runflats offer credible grip with surprising compliance.

One fly in the enthusiast's ointment: To borrow from an old Western, the 535i is quiet... too quiet. Unless you really stomp on the gas and/or cascade down a handful of gears to get the engine on boil, you're not likely to hear much. That paucity of drivetrain noise is great for when

**That paucity of drivetrain noise is great for when you're cuing up Wagner on the surround sound audio, not so great when you're trying to set your enthusiast driving neurons alight. That said, we're happy to report that wind and tire-noise are similarly muted.**

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That said, we're happy to report that wind and tire-noise are similarly muted.

Safety-minded options include a brace of cameras to provide a bird's eye parking view (think: Infiniti's brilliant AroundView Monitor), night vision with pedestrian detection, active cruise control and a nifty

heads-up display. There's even a self-parking option, a feature that one German BMW official assured us will be sure to please your wife. Oh, yes he did.

The new 5 Series is better looking, more luxurious and more capable – yet it is also safer and cleaner. So is it ready to pick up the E39's torch anew? Well, not really. Without going so far as to suggest that that car was a primitive instrument of joy, BMW has moved too far down the field technologically to simply allow its engineers to pour old wine into new wine-skins and call it a day. Besides, BMW's customers, competitors and various world governments have all gone and moved the segment's goalposts in the meantime. Having said all that, the 2011 5 Series is easier to use, easier on the eyes and far easier to find the magic in than its immediate predecessor. That might not be sufficient to proclaim it a neo-E39, but it might just be enough to move the Roundel to the head of the pack all over again.

*Inputs from Gopal Chopra, Delhi Bureau*



Tata's Nano, The Car That Few Want To Buy



DREAM  
in flames

An overview of foreign press

**MUMBAI, India:** When it was introduced in early 2009, the egg-shaped Tata Nano was billed as a modern-day people's car, an ultracheap vehicle that would bring greater mobility to the masses of India and, eventually, the world. But those ambitions have stalled — for now, at least.

A Tata Nano LX in a suburb of Mumbai. Only 509 were shipped to dealers in November, down from 9,000 in July. Deeksha Dhawan, a student, in her Nano LX. Satisfied owners like Ms. Dhawan cite its fuel economy and roomy interior. Though car sales have shot up across India, because of an economy that is growing at nearly 9 percent annually, sales of the Nano

have been falling for the last four months. Its maker, Tata Motors, sold only 509 Nanos to its dealers in November — a stark contrast to the 9,000 it delivered in July. Last year, when media coverage and auto writers' praise were stoking demand, Tata had orders for more than 200,000 Nanos, which has a list price starting at about \$2,900.

But as Tata has struggled with problems like production delays and fires in some of the cars, rival cars like the Maruti Suzuki Alto have overtaken the Nano. The Alto, which starts at \$6,200 here, had sales of more than 30,000 in November, making it India's best-selling car last month.

On Thursday the Tata company announced that it would extend the warranty on the Nano, including those that have already been sold, to four years, from 18 months.

The Nano's celebrated rollout had helped prompt other big automakers, like General Motors and Renault-Nissan, to announce plans for ultracheap people's cars of their own for sale in India and other developing countries. Those would-be competitors are still expected to appear in the next two years.

But the Nano's poor showing could give pause to corporate executives and policy makers, eager to see goods and services sold to people of modest means.

## NANO WONDER

Analysts say the Nano situation demonstrates it may not be sufficient to make cheaper, smaller versions of existing products to win over that broad base of customers. Companies, they say, must also make sure the products are widely available and are seen as safe, useful and alluring.

"The bottom of the pyramid continues to be where the action is," said Hormazd Sorabjee, editor of *Autocar India*, a magazine. "But the aspirations of people are moving up. People want to jump into something more substantial."

That seems evident from the booming car market in India, where total sales climbed more than 22 percent, to nearly 203,000 in November. The most popular cars here are small, fuel-efficient hatchbacks that sell for \$10,000 or less. Maruti Suzuki, a division of the Japanese auto maker Suzuki, now sells nearly half of all cars here.

Tata Motors, which is part of India's biggest business conglomerate, the Tata Group, ranks third behind Hyundai of South Korea, whose top seller is the i10, a small car that starts at \$7,800.

Tata, which started as a locomotive and truck maker, has gradually built market share in the car business over the last 20 years on the strength of modestly priced cars and sport utility vehicles. The Nano was Tata's big bid to shake up the car market in India and then go global — first in other developing countries and then, if all went as planned, Europe and possibly even the United States.

The idea had been to sell the same Indian version of the Nano in other developing markets, but offer a more powerful and costlier version in developed countries. The Indian model is a four-door car that can seat up to five people; its air-cooled engine is in the back, like the original Volkswagen Beetle.

The Nano was the brainchild of Ratan Tata, the chairman of the Tata Group, who told his engineers to build a car that would sell for 100,000 rupees (\$2,200) to people who would otherwise be making do with motorcycles and scooters. It is common to see Indian families of four riding on motorcycles with the father upfront, the mother sitting sidesaddle with a baby in her arms and a child sandwiched between them.

But the Nano has been troubled almost from its inception. The company's production plans were thrown off kilter in 2008 when farmers, led by regional politicians, protested that the state of West Bengal had forcibly acquired land at low prices for a factory where the Nano and its parts would be made. Tata had to relocate the factory to another state, Gujarat — causing it to take more than a year and a half to fill orders for the first 100,000 cars.

More recently, the Nano has been hurt by reports of fires in a handful of cars. In one widely publicized instance, a family was taking its new Nano home from a dealership in Mumbai when smoke started billowing from the back of the car. Soon, the entire car was engulfed in flames. There were no injuries — other than to the Nano's image.

Tata Motors has steadfastly denied that

there was anything wrong with the car's design or its parts. It has said that fires were caused by "foreign electrical equipment" found on top of the exhaust system. It has offered to retrofit Nanos with extra safety features and has taken pains to say that its offer does not amount to a recall.

But analysts, customers and others have found those explanations and the company's offer wanting. What were these foreign objects? What is the function of the new safety features, and why weren't they part of the car in the first place? "The company has just mishandled the whole thing," said Darius Lam, an analyst at J.D. Power & Associates. "First, the company said it was no big deal. Then, it was just some foreign objects." Mr. Lam added that it was still not clear what had caused the fires and whether the problem had been fully addressed. In a written response to questions, the company said that it had thoroughly investigated the fires and found that the car was safe, but that it had decided to improve the exhaust and electrical systems to reassure customers.

A spokesman says sales of the Nano are now back on the rise, as the company makes cars available for immediate purchase in more sites around the country, rather than taking only orders. The company has also started displaying the car and offering test drives through new small showrooms in smaller cities to reach people who may not be comfortable walking into conventional car dealerships.

"As we began open sales, our learning was that, even though the Tata Nano is affordable for thousands of customers who do not own a car, it is still a significant decision to enter the four-wheeler category," Debasis Ray, a company spokesman said in a written statement for this article. Recently, the company began run-

ning advertisements for the car that stress its power and durability. One newspaper ad, for instance, features an owner who says he took his car to the Himalayas, climbing steep slopes with ease.

Some Nano owners — there are now more than 71,000 — praise the car's performance, its fuel efficiency (41 miles or more to the gallon) and its surprisingly spacious interior.

"I have really enjoyed driving the car," said Deeksha Dhawan, a 21-year-old architecture student whose father bought the top-end Nano, which she has decorated with stickers of Mickey Mouse, for about \$5,500. The family's primary car is a WagonR, a bigger hatchback made by Maruti Suzuki, which starts at \$7,400. But many small-car buyers said that they preferred the Alto, which has a bigger engine, more storage space and a longer track record than the Nano. Jatin Layazawala, a Mumbai businessman, recently bought an Alto after considering a fully equipped Nano, which he said would have cost only \$800 less.

Mr. Layazawala said he had driven a friend's Nano. "I was happy, but then I said I was looking for a car that would be sturdy for long drives," he said. "I think it's a dinky car."

Despite the Nano's rough road so far, analysts say that Tata Motors, which also owns Jaguar and Land Rover, has the financial and technical resources to turn the situation around. But first, they say, Tata has to more clearly answer questions about the car's safety. And then it has to come up with a better marketing and sales strategy.

"The sales numbers don't really reflect what will be the long term potential for it," said Mr. Sorabjee of *Autocar*. "It's early days."

**Kainaz Amaria** for *The New York Times*



Ratan Tata handing over the keys to the first buyer of Tata Nano

## Fourth conglomeration of Asian American cultures &amp; hall of fame awards for 2010

## And the award goes to...

President and founder of Asian American Coalition USA (since 1988) Dr. Parveen Chopra who is a well known celebrated leader in American public life with many prestigious and national awards like Liberty Bell Award on LAW DAY USA 2010 for his civil rights work in America, Haywood Burns Memorial Award for 2009 for civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King Award for 2005 for civil and human rights movement in America for twenty years as a commissioner of Human Rights and as it's chairperson, Ellis Island Medal of Honors for 2005 for significant contributions to American public life, One Hundred Blackmen Award for 2003 for improving Indian and African-American community relations etc. among many other awards said we had to create a national Asian American Coalition USA Hall of Fame Awards to honor outstanding Americans and Asians to the AACUSA Hall of Fame. Americans have recognized and honored the work of so many outstanding Asians that we felt obliged to honor and induct outstanding Americans for their national and international contributions on a national Asian platform. We appreciate what other great Americans have done for us and now we want to do the same in a mutually appreciative way.

It is astonishing that Indians as part of Asians community have lived in USA for over four decades while other Asians have spent over one hundred years that they still do not have any national platform to honor Americans and other Asians. African Americans who account for over thirty million have powerful national platforms like National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Urban League, Dr. Martin Luther King Foundation, One Hundred Black Men Inc. etc. where even the President of USA will attend and honor outstanding Americans on their behalf annually. Similarly the thirty four million Hispanic Americans have a strong coalition in the form of Coalition of American Spanish Associations which provides strong advocacy for their causes and recognizes contributions of others. When it comes to the Asians who account for 14.9 million in the recent census of America there is no known national platform either for their own Asian advocacy or to relate to other communities or to recognize their leadership or contributions to

America and international community. We are trying to build a dirt road that will lead to an airport to take off from AACUSA INC. The Fourth Conglomeration of fourteen Asian countries in America inducted seven outstanding Americans to the AAC USA Hall of Fame Awards for the second time in 2010 in New York.

Asian groups have fascinating cultures that they have brought with them and perfected it to suit their tastes and have achieved so much in America professionally and entrepreneurially, but they are still absorbed in themselves at their own country level. The fascinating and thrilling stories of their achievements and their



fascinating cultures need to be spread out beyond their own community and shared with the larger world in America. The information technology now has given us the tools to add a certain degree of immortality to the work and contributions of such communities that could last for decades and centuries and give a sense of glorious history to immigrant communities in future.

The AAC USA 2010 Hall of Fame inductees included a galaxy of stars who have done very distinguished work not only in America but also internationally by improving the lives of so many people in so many ways: by bringing change through a successful strategy to use government resources to change the lives of millions of people and create a climate to foster entrepreneurship and by cutting taxes for the common man, creating more than 15,000 jobs during his seven terms as a legislator, creating a senior citizen and community center, and receiving Congressional Award for community service (Life Time Achievement Award for Nassau County Executive Honorable Edward P. Mangano, AACUSA Hall of Fame Honoree-USA); or by giving judicial decisions at supreme court level on leading case laws to guide the judicial system in both civil and criminal cases that remove the inequities in the social, economic and political systems (New York State Supreme Court Justice Honorable Daniel Palmieri, Hall of Fame Honoree-USA); or

by setting up a great Institute of Indian Culture in the form of Bhavan USA, organizing eighth World Hindi Conference at the United Nations, authoring over sixteen books in several languages, organizing most elegant functions at Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall to showcase Indian culture and being honored with national awards like Padma Shri in 2009 and Bharatiya Samman Award in 2006 (Dr. Panchapakesa Jayaraman, Hall of Fame Honoree-India); or by superbly leading the activities of the largest mosque in Manhattan as Imam, presiding over the affairs of Indonesian Muslim Community in New York, founding Universal Clergy Coalition International, becoming "Ambassador of Peace" for International Religious Federation in 2002, being awarded 2009 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for building bridges of understanding and representing in The White House on interfaith discussions (Imam Shamsi Ali, Hall of Fame Honoree-Indonesia); or by illuminating minds by outstanding research and teaching at world famous institutions like Columbia, NYU, New York Public Library, Nanking, Chanchun, Tamakang, East China Normal Univ., advisor to Beijing, China and other countries, presiding over Books for China Fund, also presiding over U.S.-China Cultural and Economic Council, New York (John T. Ma, Hall of Fame Honoree-China); or by leading as a professor in Rehabilitation Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, creating many patents including safety cannula, pneumatic limb exsanguinations device etc., mitigating the effects of natural calamities by helping flood victims in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1987 and in Nepal in 1993, running charity clinics and medical camps in Nepal, Bronx and upstate New York, presiding over the America-Nepal Friendship Society as well as Association of Nepali Terrain in America (Dr. Binod P. Shah, Hall of Fame Honoree-Nepal); or by earning a rare Ph.D. in music education in Japan and training many teachers at the Taichung Teachers College and assisting many colleges to conduct their choruses in Taiwan. Giving highly successful performances with Taiwan Center Chorus and Tenaffly Singers at the Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center and at Alice Tully Hall several times (Dr. Ping-Heng Chen, Hall of Fame Honoree-Taiwan)



# RIL to enter homeland security business

Veelaas Kenjale

**M**ukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) may be looking at major forays into homeland security and aerospace sectors. In the first firm indication of the group's intention, it has hired Vivek Lall, a former NASA scientist who aggressively led Boeing's military and commercial division in India for several years.

Lall is joining RIL as president for a new venture which would be focused on homeland security and aerospace, sources said. A RIL spokesperson declined to comment.

According to market sources, Lall could be leading the new RIL venture with cutting-edge homeland security solutions. There is also speculation that the group could go further down and enter aerospace arena at an appropriate time, one source said.

Reliance sources said Lall's appoint-

ment to pursue opportunities in the homeland security space is synergistic with the group's plans for broadband wireless access services. The group is expected to roll out the next generation technology services soon. RIL is looking to develop safe and secure smart cities as well as systems for disaster management preparedness.

When Lall headed the Boeing commercial arm it won over \$25 billion worth of commercial aircraft business in three years, and during the past four years when he headed defence, space and security the company scooped up almost \$10 billion worth of business in India.

into the security sector could have significant impact on the entire industry, given the over-dependence of India on foreign suppliers for security solutions. Homeland security is a major growth sector, with national security agencies and state police forces on an unprecedented modernization drive.

There is also a major demand for homeland security solutions from the private sector – RIL itself is among the biggest consumers of security solutions in the country.

RIL's entry into homeland and aerospace security could have a far bigger impact than the entry of Indian groups such as Tata, L&T and Mahindra.

Lall is among the new breed of professionals to join RIL from other companies. A few years ago, the group had hired R Ravimohan as executive to transform business processes from Standard & Poor's. A few months into his new assignment, Ravimohan had died of a heart attack.

Other professionals who have joined the group in the recent past include ex-Citibanker V Srikanth and Gwyn Sundagul from Tesco Thailand. Srikanth was appointed as deputy CFO in July 2010 while Sundagul heads the Reliance Value retail format since December 2009.

# India acknowledge PIO role NATION BUILDING

**P**ravasi Bharatiya Divas is an annual affair, which is organized by the Government of India to recognize the contributions of NRI's and PIO's who have excelled in their chosen fields. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is an International event held every year in the first week of January. The event offers a platform where all discusses issues concerning the Indian Diaspora. As India marches ahead to become a global player, the role of PIO community becomes extremely important because they remains the face of India to the global community.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and FICCI sponsored the first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The event was celebrated in the year 2003 from January 9 to January 11. The main highlight of the first event was to create 'consciousness of Global Indian Family'.

The second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas aimed at having close interaction of the Indian Diaspora with the Central and State government to define new policy initiatives for the Diaspora and exploring business opportunities in India within the Diaspora.

The third Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held in Mumbai and attended by large number of Indian political and business leaders, professionals, scientists and innovators from Indian Diaspora. The third Pravasi Bharatiya Divas provided a unique networking opportunity and also strengthened India's relation with the Indian Diaspora.

The fourth one was held in Hyderabad in the year 2006 with the focus on Indian Diaspora knowledge network, opportunities in education, Indian Diaspora youth and a lot many topics.

The History of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held annually clearly shows that main highlights and objectives of the events so far has been to promote understanding and relation of the Indian Diaspora with India and benefiting both in the

## GOING REGIONAL

**M**ini PBDs are essentially Regional PBDs organized to reach out to a vast majority of our Diaspora, who for various reasons, are unable to attend the main event in India and benefit from its deliberations. This is in response to a strong and persistent demand for holding such events regionally.

### PBD-New York

The first mini-Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was jointly organized by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Confederation of Indian Industry and Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre on 23rd September, 2007 at New York, as part of the India@60 event. The central theme for PBD-New York was 'Engaging the Diaspora: The way Forward'. This was subsequently carried-over as the theme for PBD-2008 and it has since been decided that this will be the central theme to anchor-on for all future PBDs.

process. The event has also attracted large number of celebrities like political leaders, business leaders etc. making it more interesting and enriching for the participants. It offer an opportunity to create networking within Diaspora and interaction with the policy makers in India provides an opportunity to come closer to policy makers for facilitation eradication of grievances, bottle necks and red tapism.

The Diaspora Services Division of the Ministry deals with all matters related to Overseas Indians, comprising Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) which are not specifically allocated to other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India or other Divisions of the

### PBD-Singapore

A mini PBD titled 'PBD Singapore' was organized on 9-11 October 2008 in Singapore in partnership with the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

and support of the Government of Singapore. The tagline for the event was "PBD Singapore : Towards a Dynamic Indian Diaspora". The tagline for the event was "PBD Singapore: Towards a Dynamic Diaspora". Plenary sessions were planned on: "India : Scenarios for the Next Generation", "Sustainable Development", and "Asia Pacific Diaspora - Towards a Dynamic Diaspora" while concurrent sessions were held on "Science & Technology : from Lab to Market", "Tourism & Hospitality", "Finance & Banking", "Youth & Education", "Arbitration & Business Dispute Resolution - The Way Forward" and "Infrastructure - Access, Connectivity & Growth".

Ministry. These include organization of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas conventions and Mini-PBDs, conferment of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, dissemination of information concerning admission of NRI/PIO students to various educational, technical and cultural institutions in India wherever discretionary quota for NRI/PIO students exists and issues related to NRI women. The following schemes are run by the Diaspora Services Division: Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), Know India Programme (KIP), Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC), Tracing the Roots, Establishment of PIO/NRI Universities in India, Legal And Financial Assistance to Indian Women Deserted by their Overseas Indian Spouses.



GOPIO International Chairman Inder Singh with GOPIO Regional Vice President ( North America ) Dr Piyush Agrawal with members of newly formed chapters GOPIO Los Angeles East and GOPIO Los Angeles South West

## NEW GOPIO CHAPTERS IN USA AND CANADA

**F**our new GOPIO chapters have been established within the last month in the USA and Canada: GOPIO Edison , New Jersey (Contact: Arvin Sood, President at aksood@hotmail.com); GOPIO Los Angeles East, California (Contact: Mahesh Parekh, President at insmahesh@aol.com); GOPIO Los Angeles South West, California (Contact: Ashok Madan, President at ashok4u@aol.com); GOPIO Toronto East, Canada (Contact: Jay Banerjei, President at jay@jaybanerjei.com)

GOPIO International Regional Vice President (North America) is enthusiastic about the new chapters formed and "look forward to more GOPIO chapters being established" to service the NRI/PIO community in USA and Canada .

# Indian Rulers Must Take Lessons From USA To AVOID FUTURE RADIA GATES



Media persons waited outside the farm-house cum residence of high-profile corporate lobbyist Niira Radia recently as a CBI team questioned her in connection with the 2G spectrum allocation scam, in New Delhi

By Dave Makkar

Like America, India is also run by Unionized Gangsters posing as Politicians, Bureaucrats, Judiciary, Big Businesses, Religious leaders and Media in the name of Democracy. The only difference is the Unionized Gangsters in America has legalized Corruption & racism with the help of Zionist and Indian Gang Members have yet to learn how to legalize Corruption & Racism where Zionist have only Zionised the Indian Defense Department and Parliament only.

Just for example take state of New Jersey in America. It is the only state in the entire world where in 8,000 sq miles for 8.5 mil people there are 587 local governments and 1 state government in 566 Racially carved out 566 Kingdoms with over 9,000 Elected Scoundrels and over 466,000 Employees with little or no work appointed for political reasons. The state budget is \$38 bil and local government budget is 37 billion and state has a deficit of \$150 billion in unfunded liabilities like employee pension, medicare and transport fund. This state has the highest property tax which is double the US National

Average and highest cost to educate a student 3-5 times the US national average as well as highest in the world. \$18,000/ student in rich Kingdoms and \$28,000.00 in poor Kingdoms and still 250,000 can not read and write and Unionized Politicians say Oh! These kids can not comprehend in basic education.

In last 9 years my Property tax has gone up by 160% and my medical insurance for a family of 4 has gone up by 225% and my real wages has gone down by 35%. This drop could have been more if I had not fired my 3 full time Employees and have not refinanced my house twice in last 2 years first for 15 years then for 30 year mortgage when I was left with less than 9 more years to pay. Now my wife & myself put in 140 hours and now we have 1 part timer only. In the mean time CEO salary has gone up by 300%-1500%, cost to operate our Bank account (interest not included on borrowings) has gone up by 400% and cost to run for US Congress has gone up from \$1-5 mil to \$15-70 mil which is an increase of 500-1300%.

In US Democracy Gangsters are getting rich day by day and common people are getting poor day by day. Banks can get money from Federal at practically 0% and

lend it to common people at 32-35% annualized interest. This year Bankers have got only 35-65% pay raise; my heart goes out for these poor Bankers! Today America has more than 50 mil poor which is 17% of US Population that includes 20 mil unemployed and 44 mil on food stamps.

Indian Gangsters can come to New Jersey to take training in how to avoid incidents like Radia Tapes and how to start the Neta Ji Rojgar Yojna where more than 470,000 Political Leaders and their cronies can be gainfully employed legally in the name of "New Jersey Style Home Rule" for every 8.5 mil residents. The question of demanding bribes can be solved legally and how to make sure people of different income group and races do not interact can also be solved by creating Kingdoms based on financial and racial status. The Indian Gangsters can learn the art of how not to show the world largest population of 800 mil poor of India including 85 mil world's largest Child labor Army. It is the only country in the world where filthy rich and filthy poor live side by side and 667 mil Indians defecate in the open on the face of those who are calling India is shining.

# PHILANTHROPY RULES In Indian American Community

By Inder Singh

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."* Winston Churchill

Philanthropy is an act of contributing personal wealth, goods, time, and/or effort to charitable or similar causes to promote the common good. People donate for a variety of reasons – to promote a worthy or favorite cause, reduce income and estate taxes, or simply share with the society which has given them the opportunity to achieve and earn. There are several examples of Americans who have given back to community for worthy causes. Andrew Carnegie, the Ford family, the Rockefeller family, Warren Buffett, Bill and Melinda Gates, and many more who gave substantial amount and also took advantage of deductions that reduce the high tax rates on their income.

Among Indian Americans, there are some socially conscious individuals who have donated liberally for various causes over the years. In 1912, there was Jawala Singh who had become a successful potato farmer in the San Joaquin valley of California. Singh had started as an unskilled farm laborer in America and within a short span of a few years, he worked his way up to become a wealthy potato farmer. He was motivated to fund the Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Educational Scholarships, which were given to students through a competition held in India for higher studies at an American university. He also contributed towards the purchase of a hostel in Berkley, California by the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society, where Indian students could stay rent-free. Singh's scholarships helped some Indian students, including Gobind Behari Lal who came for graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley in 1912. Gobind Behari Lal later became the science editor of San Francisco Examiner from 1925 to 1982 and in 1937 was the first Indian to win the coveted Pulitzer Prize.

After the liberalization of United States immigration laws in 1965, Indians who migrated to the USA were previously educated and qualified as doctors, engineers, accountants and high-tech professionals. A majority of the students from India also adopted America as their new home after acquiring higher education from American universities. Thus, higher education and professional qualifications helped them to secure high level jobs providing a gateway to middle-class life. Over a period of time, several became successful professionals and entrepreneurs resulting in some donating generously towards community causes. These affluent Indian Americans have been transforming the Indian philanthropic landscape by funding educational projects, establishing hospitals, and supporting medical research that benefit the public at large.



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Some have gifted part of their wealth for local causes in the US where they have earned their wealth while others reached back to their roots and gave for India-centric projects. There are some who have directed their contributions to both India and America. These donors first used their energy, abilities and time to acquire wealth and then they walked away from part of it if not all, to give back to the society that had given them. Almost all the wealthy philanthropists who have given large donations have gifted to established institutions benefitting the society at large. But, whether the beneficiary is Indian society or American, Indian American philanthropists are making a noticeable difference with their increasing level of generosity.

Rajendra Vattikuti made his fortune resolving computer software problems connected with Y2K and donated \$40 million in 2001 to support cancer research. That gift established the Vattikuti Urology Institute at the Henry Ford Health System and the Vattikuti Cancer Institute at William Beaumont Hospitals in Detroit. Monte Ahuja, like most of the students who came in the 1950s and 1960, brought barely enough money to buy food for a day. Monte founded Transtar Industries and built it into the most successful after-market transmission parts distributor in the world. He donated \$30 million to University Hospital in Cleveland for the Ahuja Medical Center in the Cleveland suburb of Beachwood. The dedication ceremony of the first phase of the 53-acre health care campus on November 13, 2010 included ribbon cutting featuring Monte Ahuja, his wife Usha, daughters Ritu and Manisha, and son-in-law Neil Sethii. Monte and Usha Ahuja's donation was the largest single donation in the 140-year history of that university.

Gururaj Deshpande, co-founder and chairman of Sycamore Networks in Boston, Massachusetts, and his wife Jaishree Deshpande, established the Deshpande Center for Technology Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Engineering with a \$20 million gift in 2002. The Deshpande Foundation funds over 50 NGOs in India in the areas of agriculture, microfinance, livelihood, education and health. Dr Kiran Patel

and his wife Dr Pallavi Patel gave \$18.5 million in 2005 to the University of South Florida to build the Kiran C Patel Center for Global Solutions on that university campus. The large donation entitled the university to get state matching funds of \$16 million totaling the donation worth \$34.5-million. Both the Patels have contributed generously to several other philanthropic projects in Tampa, Florida, such as a performing arts conservatory and a research center at Pepin Heart Hospital. In India they have set up a rural village restoration project in Gujarat while in Zambia they have set up Patel Hospice Center in Lusaka, Zambia and a heart hospital in Dar-e-Salaam, Tanzania.

Vinod Gupta, founder and CEO of InfoUSA, has set up Vinod Gupta Charitable Foundation and established the Vinod Gupta School of Management and the Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur and Shrimati Ram Rati Gupta Women's College at his birth place Rampur, William Jefferson Clinton Science and Technology Center, and Hillary Rodham Clinton Mass Communication Center for Journalism and Media Management. Raj Soin, chairman of MTC Technologies in Dayton, Ohio, through his Raj and Indu Soin Family Foundation donated \$20 million to establish Raj Soin College of Business at Wright State University, supports the Soin Scholar Program, which funds the MBA education at Wright State University for three graduates every year from Delhi College of Engineering, his alma mater and has established a non-profit 55-bed Sukh Dev Raj Soin Hospital in rural Haryana. In September 2009, the Soin Foundation donated \$3 million to Dayton, Ohio's trauma and emergency center for children which was also renamed, Soin Pediatric Trauma and Emergency Centerii.

Krishan Joshi, founder and chairman of UES, Inc, a high-technology research company in Dayton, Ohio established the Krishan and Vicky Joshi Research Center in 2006 at the Wright State University College of Engineering and Computer Science with his donation of \$10 million. John P. Kapoor, a native of Amritsar, who came to the USA for graduate studies with a fel-

# GIVING ALL

Wright State University College of Engineering and Computer Science with his donation of \$10 million. John P. Kapoor, a native of Amritsar, who came to the USA for graduate studies with a fellowship from the University of Buffalo, in Buffalo, New York, gave \$11 million towards the construction of new building for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2008. Dr. Romesh Wadhvani, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur with over two decades of leadership and management experience in the technology industry, donated \$5 million in 2008 for bioscience center to his alma mater Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay where he had received a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Anand Julka and his wife, Dr. Neeraj Julka donated \$6 million in May 2010 for scholarships to graduates of Cleveland's high schools to pursue degrees in teaching, nursing, engineering and computer science. Julka's gift is the largest in Cleveland State University (CSU) history. The university will name the education and human services building as Julka Hall. Julka obtained a master's degree in industrial engineering from CSU in 1974. He serves on the board of the CSU Foundation. He is a mechanical engineering graduate of Indian Institute of Technology in India. He is the president and founder of Cleveland, Ohio based information technology company Smart Solutions Inc. Dr. Prem Sagar Reddy, a cardiologist in Victorville donated \$1 million to Victor Valley Community College District Foundation to support School of Allied Health and Nursing in 2003. He has also donated about \$8 million to various health care causes. Bhupesh Parikh and his wife Kumud contributed \$1 million for the Bhupesh Parikh Health Sciences and Technology building at Glendale Community College, California. Dr. Ushakant Thakkar and his Indonesian wife Dr. Irma Thakkar donated \$1 million to Simi Valley (California) Hospital in August 2010, for the expansion of emergency room services. They own and operate Kidney Center of Simi Valley – a renal dialysis center – near the hospital.iii

In the past few years, the number of India related chairs or programs in the notable universities have increased several folds. Presently, such programs are in existence at Columbia, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas at Austin, and University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Chicago, Indiana University, State University of New York at Stony Brook and at many more universities.

The primary goal of funding a chair or program at a university is to establish an endowment to create awareness and understanding of some aspect of India's culture such as arts, music, literature, drama, philosophy, religion, languages, social and political system. The income from the grant is used in a variety of ways such as hosting of lectures, seminars, research conferences, publication of books, offering courses to students, encouraging study abroad and similar activities to achieve the objectives outlined by the endowment. In 1992, the Indian community made contributions for an India chair at University of California, Berkeley. At the same time, Prof. Thomas Kailath established Sara

Kailath Chair in India Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Narpat Bhandari, a co-founder of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) in Santa Clara, California, endowed the Chandra Bhandari Chair in India Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1997. Silicon Valley entrepreneurs Talat and Kamil Hasan established the Kamil and Talat Hasan Endowed Chair in Classical Indian Music with their donation at University of California, Santa Clara.

**In the past few years, the number of India related chairs or programs in the notable universities have increased several folds. Presently, such programs are in existence at Columbia, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas at Austin, and University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Chicago, Indiana University, State University of New York at Stony Brook and at many more universities.**

Navin Doshi donated funds to create Doshi chair of Indian History in University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and an annual Bridge Builder Award of \$10,000 at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. Uka Solanki funded the Yadunandan India Center at California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Mohinder Sambhi, Professor Emeritus at David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California donated \$2 million in 2007 to John Hopkins University in Washington for setting up the Centre of India Studies in memory of his wife Minno. Dr. Sambhi who was born in Ludhiana, had donated \$1 million for a chair in Indian classical music in UCLA in memory of his late wife.

Drs. Amrik Singh Chattha and Jaswinder Kaur Chattha of West Virginia endowed a chair for Sikh Studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in the memory of their parents. Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany established the Kundan Kaur Kapany Chair of Sikh Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1998 and endowed a Chair of Opto-Electronics at the University of California in 1999. He also has established Satinder Kaur Kapany Gallery of Sikh Art at the Asian Art Museum in San

Francisco. Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies has been set up at University of California, Riverside, with donation from Dr. Jasbir Singh Saini Trust. Dr. Harish Rawal Neurosurgeon Jackson, Michigan gave \$1 million in February, 2008 to Jackson Community College for Rawal Center for Health Professions. Dr. Rawal and his wife Sudha, also donated \$50,000 to Jackson High School for a scholarship in memory of his mother who became widowed when he was only nine years old.

Dr. Awtar Singh established a fully funded annual fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley for a top student from Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh for graduate studies. He also established a fully endowed fellowship with the University of Colorado at Boulder that pays \$5,000 annually to a graduate or an undergraduate student with a parent or grandparent of Indian Origin. Lajpat Rai Munger of California donated land worth Rs 20 crores to the Punjab University in 2006 for setting up law and nursing institutes. Jagdish Khangura, an electrical engineer turned businessman, started "Baba Kartar Singh Dukki Higher Secondary School in village Larata, district Ludhiana, Punjab in memory of his grandfather. He created "Baba Kartar Singh Dukki Educational Trust with endowment of Rs. 30 lakhs to meet the needs of students for books, bicycles, clothes, scholarships, etc. Kartar Singh Dukki was an active member of the Gadar Party and worked in the Gadar Printing office in San Francisco during the beginning of the Gadar Movement.

Darshan Singh Dhaliwal who operates over 1000 gas stations has donated \$2.5 million to Cardinal Stritch University (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), \$1 million for a chair at the University of Wisconsin, (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), \$200,000 for Modern Language Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin, (Parkside, Wisconsin), \$100,000 for a soccer park and the list of his beneficiaries runs long. California native Hardit Singh Aurora has gifted an endowed chair in Sikh and Punjabi studies at the History Department of the University of California in Santa Cruz in memory of his son Sarabjit Singh Aurora.

Ishar Singh Bindra and family have established the Sardarni Kuljit Bindra Chair in Sikh Studies at Hofstra University in Long Island, New York, to promote the academ-



# SEXIEST KAT!

**F**HM 100 Sexiest Women - the definitive and most democratic search for the sexiest women in the world crowned Katrina Kaif as the winner...again! Katrina is the only woman in the world to win the title three times - a first across all 28 FHM editions around the world.

Marc Cain, the international luxury brand joined hands with FHM to celebrate the success of the edition. Katrina Kaif unveiled the cover of the magazine in the presence of Kabeer Sharma, Editor, FHM India and Punit Agarwal, MD, Marc Cain. FHM International has been making the 100 Sexiest List for the last 17 years, in India the list has over the last 4 years grown to be an authoritative and unapologetic poll of women Indian men love. Katrina has before this been polled the sexiest woman in the world in 2008 and 2009 and replaces the 2010 winner Deepika Padukone. The List is based entirely on SMS and online polling and saw more than 35,000 votes being cast this year.

Canvas, the venue saw the swish set of Mumbai rub shoulders with one other while sampling the delectable hors d'oeuvres. Attendees included the likes of Narendra Kumar, Vinay Khosla, Angad Bedi, Gaurav Chopra, Karishma Tanna, Hanif Hilal, Alex O'Neil and many more, who had a great evening.

"Katrina Kaif seems to have become a permanent feature on the top of our 100 Sexiest List...we might as well dub it the Katrina Kaif issue. FHM and Katrina Kaif are a match made in magazine heaven. Her average is more than Sachin Tendulkar's which in itself is quite a feat," says Kabeer Sharma, Editor FHM.

Punit Agarwal, MD, Marc Cain said "Marc Cain as a brand exemplifies beauty, class and panache and The FHM 100 Sexiest Women was a property which fits the prospect right. Katrina Kaif is a global icon and was a worthy choice as coronated by the FHM team. It has been a wonderful association and we hope to look forward to many more such occasions"

The event was managed, coordinated and executed by Apex Entertainment.

## The 100 Sexiest List 2011

FHM's top 100 Sexiest Women in the World has only grown from strength to strength year on year. It is sexier and hotter than ever before. This rarity of an event was much appreciated and welcomed by all. The wowed positions of 'sexiest women' are awarded by readers. This year as the event got bigger and better the competition got tougher too. Breaking all boundaries the list included names from across the continental borders and beyond the worlds of glamour and fashion.

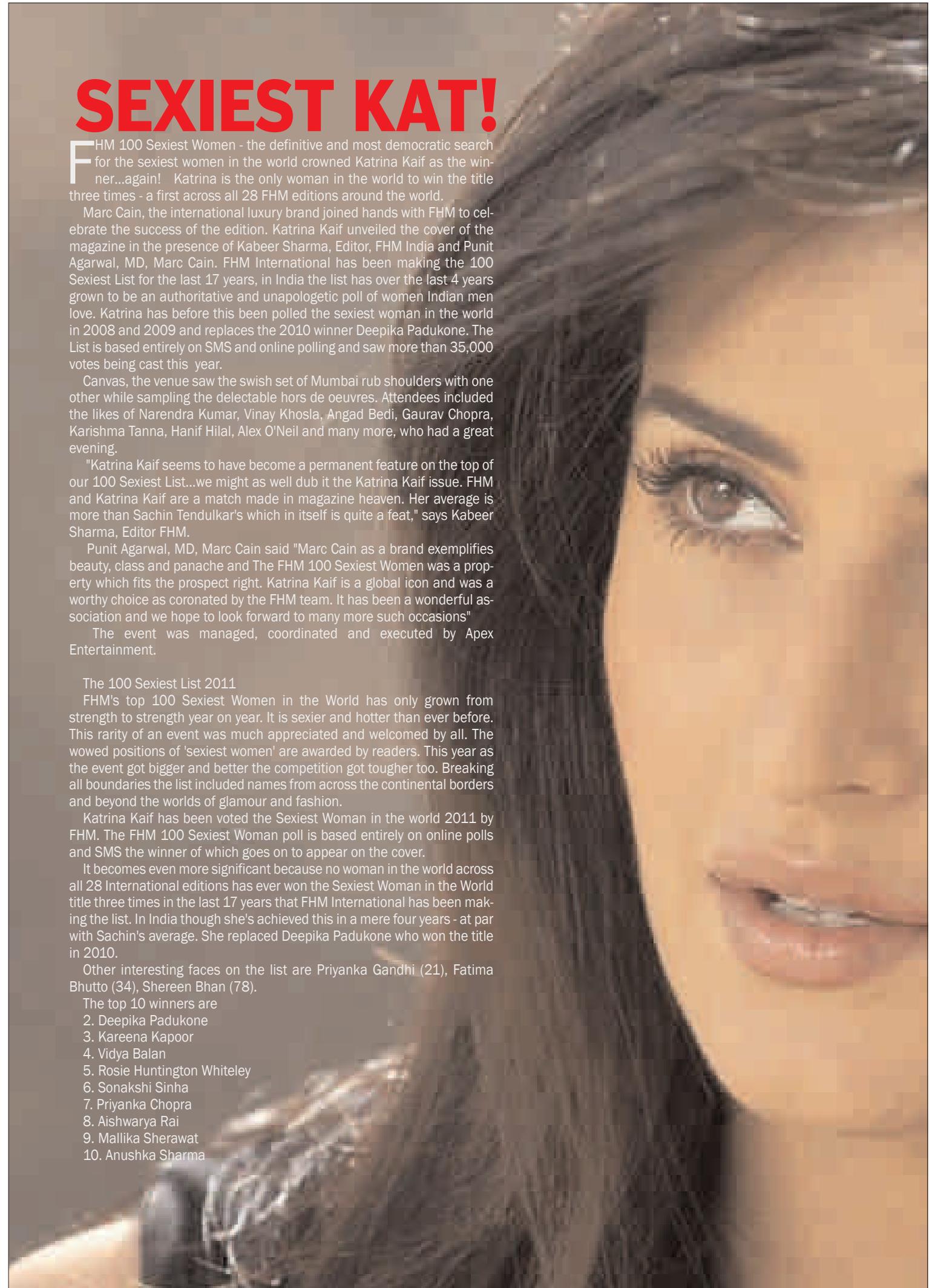
Katrina Kaif has been voted the Sexiest Woman in the world 2011 by FHM. The FHM 100 Sexiest Woman poll is based entirely on online polls and SMS the winner of which goes on to appear on the cover.

It becomes even more significant because no woman in the world across all 28 International editions has ever won the Sexiest Woman in the World title three times in the last 17 years that FHM International has been making the list. In India though she's achieved this in a mere four years - at par with Sachin's average. She replaced Deepika Padukone who won the title in 2010.

Other interesting faces on the list are Priyanka Gandhi (21), Fatima Bhutto (34), Shereen Bhan (78).

The top 10 winners are

1. Katrina Kaif
2. Deepika Padukone
3. Kareena Kapoor
4. Vidya Balan
5. Rosie Huntington Whiteley
6. Sonakshi Sinha
7. Priyanka Chopra
8. Aishwarya Rai
9. Mallika Sherawat
10. Anushka Sharma





## Strategic Location

- Located in the Rajapur 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 DMC & 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 95, SH 92 and SH 90  
Southern Shore SH 97 and SH 98

### By Rail

Connectivity - Northern and Southern bank  
Proposed Alignment: Agartanda - 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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