

# OPINION

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**UTTRAKHAND**



**MARAUDING  
MOUNTAIN**

**COVER STORY**

## **PARTY OR PERSON?**

As the BJP stocks up its arsenal for the 2014 general elections, it must take a firm stand on who will lead the party in the battle

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# editorial

## India is looking for better governance

**U**PA or NDA government headed by Rahul Gandhi or Narendra Modi in 2014 is a big question for millions of Indians now. UPA II can be termed as total disaster with an all round failure on economic front, internal security, international diplomacy, disaster management. The



country is completely in confusion, leadership is clueless and people are suffering. The success of UPA I with a clean leadership of Dr Manmohan Singh fuelled huge expectation within country that India will prosper and flourish but the country witnessed various scams namely CWG, 2G, Coal, Railways, food at regular intervals. The external boundaries were challenged by neighbouring countries specially China intrusion in Indian territory became a regular issue, Naxal

activities were taken to next level wherein the entire top leadership of Congress from Chattisgarh was wiped out in a single day. On fiscal front, rupee slide is unabated, manufacturing industry is bleeding, no headway is made on improvement of infrastructure.

Even the disaster management post Uttarakhand tragedy can be termed as total gross negligence of government responsibilities. The country is seeking answer from the ruling elite for the mess that we are witnessing. Now the bigger question is the solution to the problems that we are facing in India. The personalities are not important but the solution to problems is the key. Surely Narendra Modi has shown a better governance model in Gujrat but it is a small sample size to judge his ability to guide the destiny of India. India is a continent, it needs mature leadership with tremendous vision to succeed as a nation. India has been blessed by top visionary leadership in Rajiv Gandhi, PV Narsimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee from two decades but the two power centre in UPA II has damaged various institutions in the last decade. The first phase of UPA I was surprisingly successful but the second phase has opened tremendous weakness in governance. The most honest PM was forced to lead the most corrupt regime making mockery of several institutions including CBI, ED, Income Tax, judiciary in the country.

Now the country is seeking firm answer, the countrymen are angry and frustrated. On every small issue touching general people, the crowd is visible on roads. The emergence of Naxal in almost one third of India is an indication that the governance have failed. Rahul Gandhi or Narendra Modi must focus on getting respective house in order before reaching out to over billion people to seek mandate to run the country.

Lastly, the disaster in Uttarakhand must be taken seriously by policy makers in India. The corruption in urban planning regulatory mechanism has destroyed the land scape of our country. The development authorities across India are destroying urban planning process, threatening life of millions of countrymen. Uttarakhand tragedy is just an indicator of highly corrupt system where we are forced to accept. The disaster management policy and its execution post accident remains a laughing stock for us. As a country, we must put better logistical planning in force to run the administration. Every Uttarakhand tragedy or Chattisgarh naxal attack portrays extremely poor picture of the country to outside world. Can we stake claim to emerging super power tag for India?

Prashant Tewari



JULY 2013

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# HIMALAYAN TSUNAMI UNLEASHES DEATH



It was one of the biggest natural tragedies to have hit the India soil. On June 15, 2013, the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, some regions of Western Nepal and their adjoining areas experienced heavy rainfall that triggered devastating floods and landslides. Parts of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, and some parts of Western Tibet also experienced heavy rainfall. Till the time of going to the press, more than 1000 have perished and nearly 10,000 are reported missing.

Damage to bridges and roads left over 1 lakh pilgrims and tourists trapped in various places, many of whom were rescued. The Indian Air Force, the Army and paramilitary troops have evacuated more than 110,000 people from the flood hit area. Although Uttarakhand Assembly Speaker, based on various ground reports said that the death toll could cross 10,000, the official death toll in Uttarakhand (by 29 June 2013) was 842.

From June 14 to 17, Uttarakhand and adjoining areas received heavy rainfall, which was about 375 percent more than the benchmark rainfall during a normal monsoon. This caused the melting of Chorabari Glacier at the





**The upper Himalayan territories of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are full of forests and snow-covered mountains and thus remain relatively inaccessible. They are home to several major and historic Hindu and Sikh pilgrimage sites besides several tourist spots and trekking trails. Heavy rainfall for four consecutive days as well as melting snow aggravated the floods.**



height of 3,800 metres, and eruption of the Mandakini River which led to heavy floods near Kedar Dome, Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Western Nepal, and acute rainfall in other nearby regions of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and some parts of Tibet.

The upper Himalayan territories of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are full of forests and snow-covered mountains and thus remain relatively inaccessible. They are home to several major and historic Hindu and Sikh pilgrimage sites besides several tourist spots and trekking trails. Heavy rainfall for four consecutive days as well as melting snow aggravated the floods.

Warnings by the India Meteorological Department predicting heavy rains were not given wide publicity beforehand, causing thousands of people to be caught unawares, resulting in huge loss of life and property. In the city of Dehra Dun, capital of Uttarakhand, this was the wettest June day for over five decades.

### **Death and damage**

Landslides, due to the floods, damaged several houses and structures, killing those who were trapped. The heavy rains resulted in large flashfloods and massive landslides. Entire villages



and settlements such as Gaurikund and the market town of Ram Bada, a transition point to Kedarnath, have been obliterated, while the market town of Sonprayag suffered heavy damage and loss of lives. Pilgrimage centres in the region, including Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, the hallowed Hindu Chardham (four sites) pilgrimage centers, are visited by thousands of devotees, especially after the month of May onwards. Over 70,000 people were stuck in various regions because of damaged or blocked roads.

People in other important locations like the Valley of flowers, Roopkund and the Sikh pilgrimage centre Hemkund were stranded for more than three days. National Highway 58, an important artery connecting the region was also washed away near Jyotirmath and in many other places. Because summers have more number of tourists, the number of people impacted is substantial. For more than three days, stranded





pilgrims and tourists were without rations or survived on little food. The roads were seriously damaged at more than 450 places, resulting in huge traffic jams, and the floods caused many cars and other vehicles to be washed away.[16] On June 18, more than 12,000 pilgrims were stuck at Badrinath, the popular pilgrimage center located on the banks of the Alaknanda River.

As of 29 June 2013, the official death toll in Uttarakhand, based on the collected bodies of the victims, had crossed 850. Rescuers at the Hindu pil-

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**As of 29 June 2013, the official death toll in Uttarakhand, based on the collected bodies of the victims, had crossed 850. Rescuers at the Hindu pilgrimage town of Haridwar on the river Ganga have been reported to have recovered bodies of 40 victims washed down by the flooded rivers as of June 21 2013. Bodies of people washed away in Uttarakhand were found in distant places like Bijnor, Allahabad and Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh.**

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21 2013. Bodies of people washed away in Uttarakhand were found in distant places like Bijnor, Allahabad and Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh.

### Damage at Kedarnath town

A temple building made in stone and ice capped mountains seen in background. Situated in the Himalayan ranges, the town that grew around the Kedarnath Temple one of the famous temples of Shiva in India and part of the Char Dham yatra, was damaged by the floods and landslides caused by heavy rain.

Although the Kedarnath Temple itself had not been damaged, its base was inundated with water, mud and boulders from the landslide, damaging its perimeter. Many hotels, rest houses and shops around the temple in Kedarnath township were destroyed, resulting in several casualties. Most of the destruction at Kedarnath was caused by a sudden rapid melting of ice and snow on the Kedarnath Mountain, 6 km (3.7 mi) from the temple, which

flooded the Charbari lake (upstream) and then Kedarnath. Temple was flooded with water resulting in several deaths due to drowning and panic-driven stampede. The Uttarakhand Government announced that due to the extensive damage to the infrastructure, the temple will be temporarily closed to regular pilgrims and tourists for a year or two, but the temple rituals will still be maintained by priests. Even after a week, dead bodies were not lifted from Kedarnath town, resulting in contamination of water in Kedarnath valley and villagers who depend on spring water suffered various types of health problems like fever, diarrhoea. When flood receded, satellite images showed one new stream at Kedarnath town.

### Rescue operations

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Border Security Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Public Works Department and local administrations worked together for quick rescue oper-

ations. Several thousand soldiers were deployed for the rescue missions. Activists of political and social organizations are also involved in the rescue and management of relief centres. The national highway and other important roads were closed to regular traffic. Helicopters were used to rescue people, but due to the rough terrain, heavy fog and rainfall, maneuvering them was a challenge. By 21 June 2013, the Army had deployed 10,000 soldiers and 11 helicopters, the Navy had sent 45 naval divers, and the Air force had deployed 43 aircraft including 36 helicopters. On June 25, one of 3 IAF Mil Mi-17 rescue helicopters returning from Badrinath, carrying 5 Air Force Officers, 9 of the NDRF, and 6 of the ITBP crashed on a mountainous slope near Gauri Kund, killing all on board. The deceased soldiers were given a ceremonial Guard of honour by Home minister Sushilkumar Shinde at a function organised by the Uttarakhand State Government.

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# NEW BJP- PERSONALITY VS CADRE



A person becomes hope for millions, certainly Narendra Modi must be complimented for the extraordinary achievement. India is a continent, it is not a country. Over billion people are living in India hence to be the hope of India is huge responsibility. The elevation of Narendra Modi through popular demand has democratized the Bharatiya Janata Party. From a patriarchal system where the elders of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and of the party decided things, Modi has forcibly brought in elements of an open system where merit and democratic appeal inside the party will determine its direction. Such a takeover of a major political party by an individual purely on his credentials and popularity has no precedent in India.

In the two decades from the formation of the party to the time that it took power in the late 1990s, the BJP was controlled by only two very competent presidents - Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani (with one short term for Murlī Manohar Joshi). When the party formed the government in Delhi and both Vajpayee and Advani held ministerial responsibility, the party presidency was finally let go of by them.

In this period, to communicate the idea of an open democratic system that was unlike the closed dynastic system of the Congress, BJP presidents continued to be elected. But because the rivalry was strong between Vajpayee and Advani, this president was a safe person, meaning someone neutral, and with no base of his own. And so the BJP had presidents like Kushabhau Thakre, Jana Krishnamurthy, Bangaru Laxman and Venkaiah Naidu. They were picked





through consensus between the rivals, not through competitive elections, meaning the system was actually closed and not open. The cadre did not have a say in the choice of their leader.

These men did not make any changes or define a new direction for the party, and they were not supposed to. They were placeholders, and held office till the big boys came back to play. The important aspect is that because the system was closed, no new leadership actually emerged in the BJP through the popular route.

The disappearance from public life of Vajpayee after his defeat in 2004 and the eclipse of Advani within the party (about which more later) after his defeat in 2009 exposed this vacuum and opened up the space for someone to take the national leadership. It was assumed that this would be someone from inside the closed system. The BJP had some leaders who were "national", like Sushma Swaraj, Pramod Mahajan and Arun Jaitley, groomed for bigger things, and some who were "regional" like Modi and other state chief ministers.

This division did not indicate true levels of power. Jaitley for instance has never contested an election and has no popular appeal. Advani's visit to Pakistan in 2005 and his concession to Jinnah put off a cadre that craved someone who would take them back to

**The disappearance from public life of Vajpayee after his defeat in 2004 and the eclipse of Advani within the party (about which more later) after his defeat in 2009 exposed this vacuum and opened up the space for someone to take the national leadership. It was assumed that this would be someone from inside the closed system. The BJP had some leaders who were "national", like Sushma Swaraj, Pramod Mahajan and Arun Jaitley, groomed for bigger things, and some who were "regional" like Modi and other state chief ministers.**

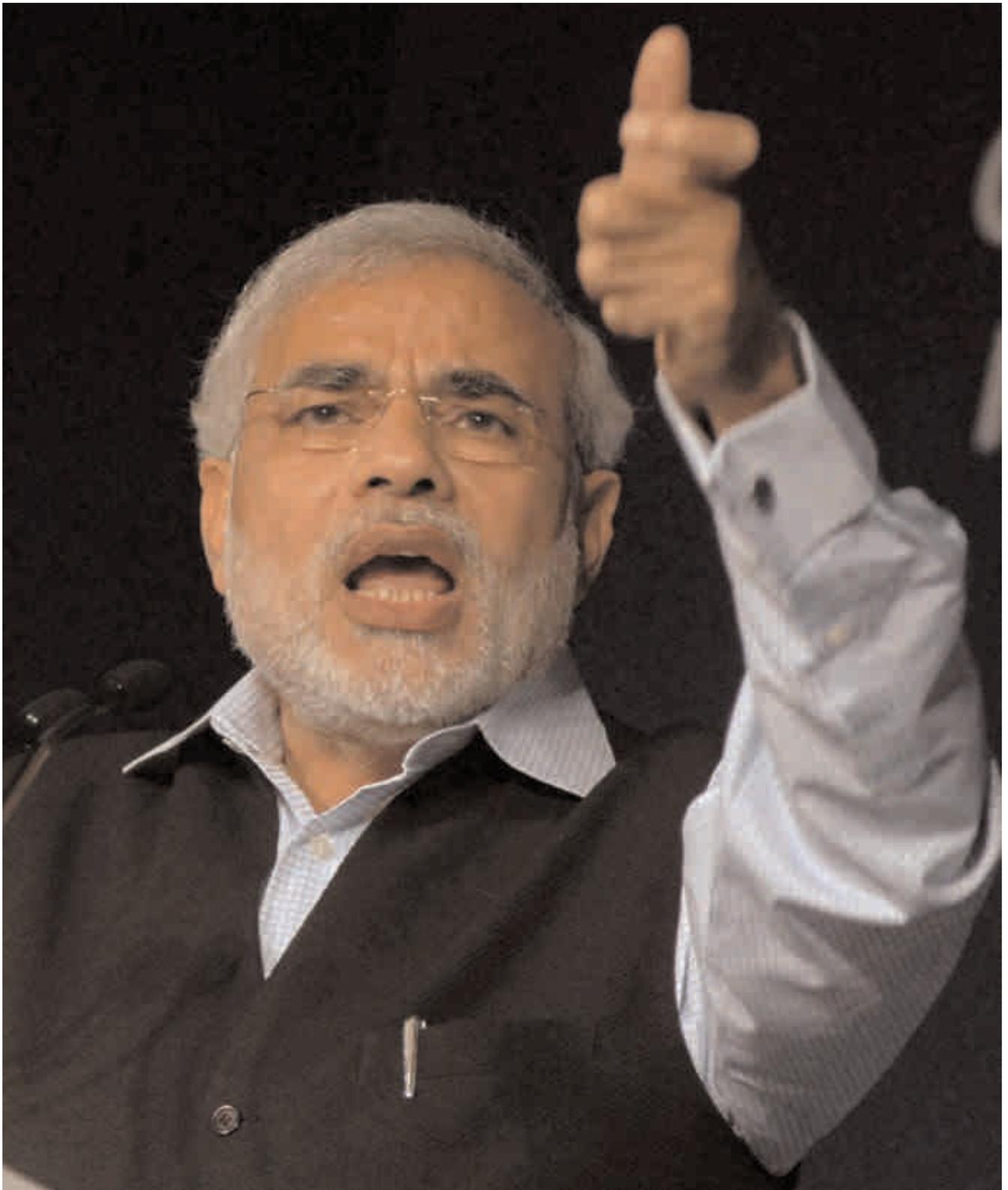
first principles, meaning the muscular Hindutva that had propelled it to power.

This is when Modi emerged as his own man. A confluence of things - first, the killings of 2002 and the proven involvement of his ministers (one of who has been convicted), second, his no-nonsense image and refusal to play by the rules of inclusive secularism, such as wearing skull-caps and hosting iftaars, and third, his competent managing of Gujarat's economy and the praise of corporate leaders - has made him a national figure.

He attracted the core BJP worker and voter because of the first two things, and also large parts of the middle class. The media, which is usually wary of communal politics, has been neutralised through the third aspect,

corporate endorsement of Modi.

The selection/election of Modi as the head of the party's campaign for 2014 has actually made him more powerful within the party than its president, Rajnath Singh, because it reveals him as the popular choice within the party. Modi gives the lower rungs of the BJP and the RSS what they want, a full-throated and uncompromisingly Hindu nationalist leadership which radiates strength and power. Even if Modi performs poorly in the election of 2014, he will retain control of the BJP. This is because his power comes directly from the cadre of both the BJP and the RSS, and the groundswell has opened up the closed system. or Narendra Modi's supporters there is nothing beyond the 2014 elections. So every alliance bro-



ken, every leader brushed aside and every political leader who criticises is meant to be set aside as the Gujarat Chief Minister's campaign machinery rolls on towards the 2014 polls. But are the numbers against him?

In an excellent analysis of the 'Modi phenomenon' in India in the Indian Express, Ashutosh Varshney notes that the Gujarat Chief Minister would need

to be a trailblazer of sorts rarely seen in India before and maybe his supporters and BJP are being a bit too hopeful of an impending victory in 2014. He points out that the BJP has seen its vote share decline over the last three elections to 18.8 percent, and though the party can hope for 18 to 20 percent of the vote share to get to 180 seats, a more practical assumption would be that Modi

needs to raise the party's vote share by 5 to 6 percentage points. What is that in numbers assuming an electorate of 800 million votes in the 2014 polls? 25 to 30 million votes.

It isn't impossible to raise one's vote share by that much, and Varshney points to three instances when it happened: in 1984 for the Congress after Indira Gandhi's assassination, in 1991



for the BJP over the Ayodhya temple issue and in 1998 for the BJP, because of allies who delivered the numbers. There is a strong anti-incumbency wave among the electorate against the Congress and the UPA but would it be one that would result in 25 million votes going in Modi's favour? Varshney, maybe rightly, points out that it is unlikely given the Gujarat Chief Minister's personality cult is one that is still resonates only with urban voters. He says:

First, beyond Gujarat, the rural folk, who still determine India's election results, have not heard of the Gujarat model. And it is virtually impossible to turn rural constituencies around in a matter of months. It is a longer political project. Second, it is also not clear that, beyond Gujarat, the urban poor share the urban middle class passion for Modi. And the numbers of the urban

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poor are substantial. Third, in southern and eastern India, even in cities, the BJP's presence is minimal.

While Varshney finds fault with the numbers against Modi, in an editorial in the Hindu, Harish Khare finds more wrong with the personality cult of the Gujarat Chief Minister, something he

claims the BJP has tried to ride on in the past and failed. Pointing to the support of the cadre in favour of the Gujarat Chief Minister, he says:

Mr. Modi is equally entitled to his personality cult. But make no mistake. Mr. Modi is a different personality, not easily amenable to democratic modera-



tion. We should get used to "Rambo" type yarns, as the polity seeks to redefine itself in the next general election.

Khare says that the Gujarat Chief Minister may seek to harness the strong anti-incumbency but warns that the drowning voices of dissent against anything anti-Modi doesn't augur well for the democracy that is India.

The liberal perception and numbers may be against the Gujarat Chief Minister and it may explain why the BJP 2014 campaign chief is urging his party members to find allies quickly to create the numbers the party needs to come to power. The Gujarat Chief Minister may also, in some corner, be willing to play along with alliance politics to forgo the Prime Minister's chair for a later innings in 2019 or after. The question is, will his supporters be able to wait?

Narendra Modi is trying to model himself on Syama Prasad Mookerjee, he was both a liberal and a nationalist. While much of his politics and time in Government reflected deep nationalism and a realism free of dogma, at his heart were core liberal principles. Reading through the biography written by Madhok one can trace the roots of his liberal nationalism all the way to his days as the Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University in the 1930s at a very young age of 33.

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Recounting a convocation address by Mookerjee on February 12, 1936, Madhok cites the following excerpt from that speech which highlights the Liberal Nationalist that Mookerjee was:

"Our ideal is to provide extensive facilities for education from the lowest grade to the highest to mould our educational purpose and to draw out the best qualities that be hidden in our youth and to train them intellectually physically for service in all spheres of national activity in towns villages cities. Our ideal is to make the widest provision for sound liberal education... Our ideal is to make our universities and educational institutions the home of liberty, sane progressive thought."

One sees the same spirit of Liberal Nationalism emerge through his tenure as Vice Chancellor as he sought to expand access to the University even to

who were not enrolled in a regular college. A focus on youth and grooming of the next generation is a recurrent theme in his liberal nationalism.

"I have abundant faith in the glory of youth ... they be given a chance to live, an opportunity to enjoy life and the amplest facilities for the development of their health and character."

One also sees during his tenure as the Vice Chancellor an ethic of minimum government. He did not depend on Government or wait for Government to create opportunities for youth. He proactively introduced many measures like abolishing reserved hostels and messes and expanding the curriculum to include sciences and engineering. He was also opposed to the idea of putting limits on higher education to control the number of graduates on the lookout for employment.



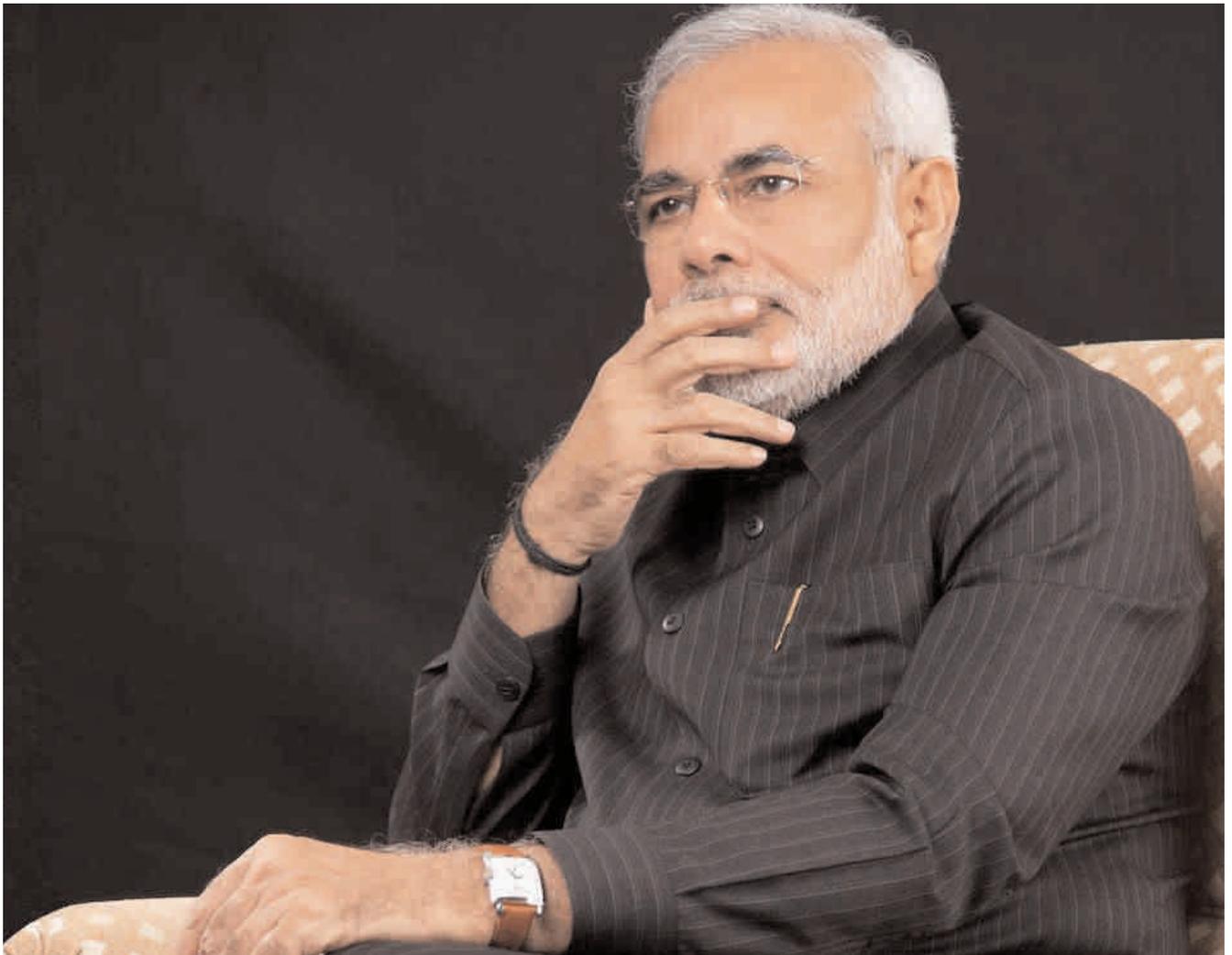
## Delhi intellectuals fear coming of no-nonsense Modi

Syama Prasad Mookerjee's liberal nationalism is evident through his years with the Hindu Mahasabha during the independence struggle as well. In a speech in December 1943, making the case for the Hindu Mahasabha, Mookerjee explains that he stood for no special favours for Hindus but for welfare and advancement of India as a whole. The cynical politics of wordplay on "secularism/communalism" of the Congress predates India's independence. Even an intellectual of Mookerjee's stature was not spared the game of labeling that we continue to see even today.

Many examples of Mookerjee's liberal nationalism can be found through Balraj Madhok's book. In a speech in 1943 in Amritsar to the Hindu Mahasabha, Mookerjee spoke of how an Idea of India that transcended both caste and religion and that called for political citizenship to everyone without discrimination. In the years after Independence when he was invited to join Nehru's Cabinet as the Minister for Industries, one sees his economic liberalism grounded in the realities of India come through very clearly. Madhok writes:

"He had very clear ideas on the role of private capital in the industrial development of the country as also on the relationship between capital and labour ... He was for giving full scope to private enterprise under suitable Government regulation ... He wanted government to concentrate its meagre resources on the defence of the realm ... he stood for a rational coordination between private and public capital in light of the actual conditions in the country..."

In Balraj Madhok's eyes, Mookerjee was a realist who was not guided by dogma. Citing two examples of how he believed in private enterprise while being pragmatic about economic realities of India, Madhok explains how Mookerjee was opposed to full nationalisation and that he did not believe India had the skills resources to nationalise and run all kinds of industries. At the same time, he also believed that given the realities of labour in India, that there had to be some kind of profit sharing between capital and labour. While investing in public sector enterprises, he also believed that needed professional management independent of Government to make them viable and keep them efficient.



Over the years, after he resigned from Nehru's Cabinet and quit the Hindu Mahasabha before eventually founding the Jan Sangh the liberal national ethic travelled with him. His inaugural presidential address to the Jan Sangh once again sees the same ethic of economic liberalism:

"we stand for well planned decentralized national economy..... against concentration of economic power in cartels ....sanctity of private property will be observed....private enterprise will be given a fair and adequate play....state ownership and state control only where it is needed in public interest....progressive decontrol..."

The issue that saw him most rile up Nehru in Parliament was the Kashmir issue. On this too his position was a liberal national position.

"Kashmir is an integral part of India and should be treated as any other State"

It is a reflection of the perversity that has afflicted much of the intellectual discourse in India that an issue like the demand for abrogation of Article 370, far from being labelled as the liberal national issue that it ought

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**While Mookerjee's political legacy will be coloured by the leftist historians with all kinds of labels, it would be instructive to point out that he commanded even the respect of the Communists through his defence of civil liberties and his opposition to the Preventive Detention Act.**

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to be, is dismissed as a 'communal' issue or even worse described as a 'Hindutva' issue.

While Mookerjee's political legacy will be coloured by the leftist historians with all kinds of labels, it would be instructive to point out that he commanded even the respect of the Communists through his defence of civil liberties and his opposition to the Preventive Detention Act.

This comment by Mookerjee in

response to Nehru's repeated labelling of him as 'communal' brings out the best in him:

"If we try to recover our lost position in a manner 100 per cent consistent with the dynamic principles of Hinduism for which Swami Vivekanand stood, I am proud to be a communalist."

By marking the soft start to what will be deemed to be the campaign for the next Lok Sabha in Madhopur, Narendra Modi will be laying claim to that political legacy of liberal nationalism that Mookerjee stood for many decades back when he founded the Jan Sangh to challenge the Nehru-led Congress's political monopoly in India. All the contentious issues namely Ayodhya Ram temple, abolishing article 370, uniform civil code are deliberately untouched by team Modi to build up international acceptance but the pressure from the cadre and right wing forces within core group of the party will be just waiting to pounce on Modi to express his opinion in public to polarise votes for BJP.

**By Prakhar Prakash Mishra,  
Political Editor**

# Narendra Modi and Sonia Gandhi will clash in 2014

● Sandhya Jain

One impact of the Gujarat Chief Minister's elevation as the Bharatiya Janata Party's election campaign committee chief will be the quiet retreat of the Amethi MP as his main challenger; the Congress president will be forced to lead the electoral battle in 2014 and search for a new surrogate-PM should the party be in position to head a new coalition Government.

Rahul Gandhi's obvious reluctance (read inability) to take on Narendra Modi in the race to Delhi puts Congress at a clear disadvantage vis-à-vis the BJP. This is why, despite the near certainty that the party is heading for a rout in 2014, Sonia Gandhi must desperately find a surrogate with whom Rahul Gandhi can establish a dyarchy should opportunity invite Congress to lead a third coalition.

With the road thus clear for

Narendra Modi's ultimate projection as the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate in 2014, a brief analysis of this spectacular development would be in order. Narendra Modi is independent India's first Chief Minister to be projected by his own party as a future Prime Minister. While former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh did become Prime Minister, he had to break away from the Congress and form the National Front coalition to do so.





Similarly, former Karnataka Chief Minister HD Deve Gowda was selected to be Prime Minister in 1996 when some non-Congress non-BJP parties joined hands to form the United Front government after the Congress headed by PV Narasimha Rao lost the elections.

### **Modi behind wheel, BJP in battle mode**

Modi's elevation follows grim opposition from stalwart LK Advani who, like the blind king Dhritarashtra, refused to give up the throne he regarded as rightfully his, even after his beloved son(s) had come of age. Ironically the decision, forced by the chief ministers, cadres, and vocal public opinion, marks a decline in RSS domination of BJP affairs, something Advani forcefully advocated at the Chennai national

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executive meeting in September 2005, when he repudiated the 'umbilical cord' between the two organisations and spoke of a 'symbiotic relationship'. He also rebuked the RSS for day to day meddling in the party's affairs, warning that this would 'do no good either to the party or to the RSS.'

### **Modi is fear factor for Congress: BJP**

The pigeons have now come home to roost. This statement warrants a brief explanation. It is no secret that the RSS set up the Jana Sangh as its political arm, a slot later taken by the BJP. Hence its domination of the party,



which often worked to the detriment of ambitious leaders who tried to challenge RSS favourites. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya famously told one stalwart to move out of the BJP if he could not get along with Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Advani similarly was deeply entrenched in the Parivar set up, which rendered challengers like Murli Manohar Joshi infructuous.

### **Narendra Modi is the only choice**

So well supported was Advani by the Parivar stalwarts that the then Sarsanghachalak KS Sudarshan was forced to retract his statement that Vajpayee and Advani should retire from politics after the 2004 defeat. Even after Advani's startling praise of

Mohammad Ali Jinnah while in Pakistan in June 2005, RSS had a tough time getting him to step down as party president. He was replaced by Nitin Gadkari, a provincial who failed to make a mark in Delhi, but continued to manipulate the levers of power, imposing himself as the party's Prime Ministerial hopeful in the 2008 election, and refusing to call it a day even after being soundly reject-



ed by the electorate.

What makes Goa 2013 different is the opposition to the sustained mismanagement of the party by the central leadership in Delhi, and this includes the RSS. After the Rajasthan election was narrowly lost in 2008, Haryana surrendered in 2009, and the recent trashing in Karnataka after the humiliation and forced exit of BS Yeddyurappa, the State unit leaders (Chief Ministers and potential Chief Ministers) clearly felt that enough was enough and that BJP could not be left to the whims of non-vote-catchers.

These grassroots leaders clearly decided to call the shots and together with Rajnath Singh - who was never allowed to settle down in his first tenure, and never made a wrong move in his second innings - called Advani's bluff. When he gracelessly refused to read the writing on the wall and bless the rising star in Goa, he was allowed to

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**Regarding Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh, it needs to be said that like Raman Singh, he is an honest and excellent leader with the capacity to win his State again and again. It is no slur on their abilities, however, to say that they lack the cross-State appeal of Modi and both have wisely recognised this.**

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write himself into oblivion.

Rajnath Singh had indicated the way the wind would blow when he spontaneously invited Modi back into the parliamentary board. Among State leaders, Vasundhara Raje was first to make her preference clear during her recent yatras, and Manohar Parrikar was explicit that Modi could attract the floating vote that often decides the fate of an election.

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honest and excellent leader with the capacity to win his State again and again. It is no slur on their abilities, however, to say that they lack the cross-State appeal of Modi and both have wisely recognised this.

**Advani quits all BJP posts, says party not same as before**

All these grassroots leaders have risen to the occasion and ensured that Delhi is not sacrificed to coterie politics. RSS has wisely allowed the party to assert this autonomy. It would do well, however, to rein in the Vishwa Hindu



Parishad which is trying to muddy the waters by raising issues that cannot be resolved through elections. Also, since the VHP has done precious little to advance its supposed agenda in the past two decades, this is not the time to polarise opinion or people. Some issues are best left to time and history.

It bears recalling that the assertion by some politicians and media persons that the BJP rose from two seats in 1984 (post Indira Gandhi's assassination) and captured power at the Centre in less than two decades because of the leadership of Vajpayee and Advani is simply incorrect. Both men were fully backed by the RSS and owed their power to that association. The Ram Janmabhoomi movement was an RSS movement, and was first mooted at Palampur when Murli Manohar Joshi was party president. BJP used it to rise to national eminence, and then arrive in Delhi.

It bears recalling that an Advani crony who loves to describe himself as an RSS ideologue wrote a column in a daily newspaper on the tenth anniversary of the Babri demolition stating that the Ram Mandir movement was only a stratagem to garner public support and votes for the BJP, and there was never any intention to build the temple. This led Sushma Swaraj to call Rama Janmabhoomi an 'encashed cheque'. After not protesting all these years, VHP cannot now make this its priority number one. It reeks of dishonesty and must stop.

Now that Narendra Modi has been anointed as the BJP's primus inter pares, he should not be made to waste his energies in futile obstacle races. The task ahead is formidable enough.

Footnote: Unable to digest the rise and rise of Narendra Modi, Advani has peevishly resigned from all party posts, viz, national executive, parliamentary

board, and election committee. Rajnath Singh has rejected the resignations, but it is fairly certain that the octogenarian will no longer attend party meetings, so they may well let him go.

Advani has not resigned his Lok Sabha seat from Gandhinagar, won courtesy Narendra Modi in 2008, a mistake for which the Gujarat Chief Minister has paid dearly in subsequent years.

The impact of his tantrums on public opinion will be less than minimal. Those who doubt this assessment may recall that Advani was almost trounced by Rajesh Khanna in New Delhi in 1991, and had since relied on Narendra Modi to get elected from Gandhinagar. After the souring of relations between the two, he began searching for a safe seat outside Gujarat for 2014. He reportedly honed in on Bhopal, and hence his praise for Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

# Food Security Bill: Where's the money for this colossal waste?



● Venkatesh Ramachandran

## Food Security Bill: Where's the money for this colossal waste?

"This would perhaps be the biggest ever experiment in the world to distribute subsidised grain to achieve food and nutritional security." "This" refers to the Food Security Bill, [FSB] the brainchild of the National Advisory Council and widely expected to be the route to political nirvana for UPA.

But pray who calls this grand design of distributing food grains to approximately two-thirds of our population at subsidized prices an "experiment?" The Opposition? No. The Media? Never. The Judiciary? Not at all.

## Ordinance on Food Security Bill postponed

In fact, this is the view of the Ministry of Agriculture contained in The

Discussion Paper on National Food Security Bill and prepared by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

That is not all. The document laments that "The Bill, in its present form, throws up major operational and financial challenges and would have enormous ramifications on the cereal economy/markets and therefore Indian agriculture as a whole."

To appreciate the "enormous ramifications" mentioned above, its consequences and implications on national grain markets a reference to the food grains production as well as procurement and distribution by the Government through the extant Public Distribution System [PDS] needs to be appreciated.

## Government as a hoarder

India produces approximately 250 MT of food grains annually. Of this one-half i.e. 120 - 140 MT is estimated to

be consumed by farmers and theoretically does not enter the national grain markets. Of the balance 110-130 MT that enters the national grain markets, Government procures approximately half of this for public distribution. The balance - a small portion say 60 MT - enters our grain markets.

It is in this connection this document correctly points out that "The government already procures one-third of the cereals production (which amounts to almost half of marketed surplus of wheat and rice)." That makes the Government a dominant player.

This has profound implications on food grains prices. As we have an open-ended purchase policy, we continue to endlessly purchase over and above our buffer stock requirements. For instance, as against the buffer stock norm of 31.9 million tons of Rice & wheat (as on July 1 of each year), total central stocks were at 80.5 million tons as at July 1, 2012.



## Debate: Does India need the 'Food Security Bill'?

Obviously the Government, thanks to its inefficiency, is unable to distribute what it procures. In the process, little do we realise that this is public hoarding by the Government. This in turn robs the common man of grain stocks while artificially inflating its prices. This hoarding by the state is at the root of the extant chronic food inflation and shortage in India.

Food Security Bill simply seeks to amplify this.

Another dimension of the problem is that only a handful of States have marketable surplus. That implies concentrated procurement. And this needs to be distributed nationwide. It may be noted that 70 per cent of rice procurement is done from Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh while 80 per cent of wheat procurement is done from Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh.

This is a logistic person's nightmare. For instance, moving wheat from Punjab situated in one corner of the country through an archaic transportation system and storage network mechanism into Kerala virtually doubles its cost as it arrives in the point of consumption in Kerala.

Interestingly, the economic cost of FCI for acquiring, storing and distributing food grains is about 40 per cent of the procurement price. Obviously, Food Corporation of India must be a unique organisation that suffers from diseconomies of scale! But who cares? The

more it procures, stores or distributes, the more it leaks.

In such a scenario, importing wheat, at times from international markets, theoretically becomes a wiser proposition. But when a country like India enters the international grain markets,





(in view of her volumes) instantly international prices spike, making imports practically a non-option. That makes us extremely dependent on the national grain markets to feed our gargantuan population.

Yet, what is galling is the fact that the National Sample Survey [NSS] studies reveals massive leakage of food grains in the Targeted PDS mechanism that aims to deliver food grains for BPL families. This is simply because PDS has virtually collapsed in several states in India due to weak governance and lack of accountability.

In fact, this document by the Ministry of Agriculture demonstrates the dismal performance of this scheme for 2004-05 and 2009-10, the two years for which NSS data on consumption from PDS are available.

In 2004-05, compared to an off-take of 29 million tonnes of rice and wheat by States, only 13 tonnes were actually lifted by households for consumption - suggesting a massive leakage of 54 per cent. In 2009-10, 25 million tonnes was received by the people under PDS while the off-take by states was 42 million tonnes - indicating a leakage in excess of 40 per cent.

Further, the FCI storage facilities are still primitive. For instance, the FCI is facing an acute storage crisis with cov-

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ered capacity estimated at around 45 million tonnes and Covered and Plinth storage of 17 million tonnes against the stocks crossing 80 million tonnes. This once again adds to the wastage of grains while storing and handling.

### **Suicidal mission**

There is a yet another piece of data that possibly is hidden from most Indians. Most economists within the establishment have a skewed view of the massive levels of malnutrition and food deprivation. Thus they assume we have a distributional problem. In the process most policies laid out by the Government aim to set right this issue when the challenge lies elsewhere.

The Economic Survey document for 2011-12 reveals that the average daily per capita food grain consumption of an Indian in 1965 was 418 grams and that

of pulses, 62 grams. Remember, in 1965 we had a war with Pakistan on top of a deadly drought.

Approximately after five decades of our 'successful' tryst with green revolution, the survey shockingly points out that the average daily per capita food grain consumption of an average Indian in 2010 was a meagre 407 grams and of pulses, a disappointing 32 grams.

It is in this connection it has to be noted the National Institute of Nutrition is reported to have prescribed a minimum of 2,400 calories per day per person. Significant sections of our population do not have access to this minimal requirement. By the way, the average calorie intake available to an inmate at the dreaded Guantanamo Bay daily is well in excess of 4,000 calories.

Obviously, we are not producing enough food grains or pulses now when



compared to 1965 on a per capita level. Yet, for the past four decades or so we have been under the mistaken belief that distribution, not production, to be the key to the issue on hand. That explains why we created a monstrous public distribution system in the first place.

Simply put, the Food Security Act is implementable only when we produce food grains in excess of 350 MT. And in such a scenario with massive stocks of food we do not require state intervention. And should we produce less than 350 MT and seek an intervention of the state, it will be a futile exercise.

Crucially, the PM and his economists within the Government assume that this outlandish legislation will settle our production, distribution and storage deficiencies in our farm sector.

But assuming that it can be done what is the cost? Crucially where is the money? The document prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture states that the total financial expenditure entailed will be around Rs 682,163 crores over a three year period.

This works out to in excess of Rs 225,000 crore every year. Given this massive sums of money required to

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administer this flight of fancy - the Finance Minister of India has allotted a paltry sum of Rs 85,000 crore in the Budget of 2013-14. And should the FM provide money for this food subsidy, his promise to assiduously restructure the finance of the country goes for a toss.

And even if the money is available [remember money can be printed, but not paddy or wheat] how can it be a solution? To improve food security to

our people we need to produce more of food.

For decades socialist ideas was all about distributing poverty, not wealth. Food security bill, consequently, is a repetition of our mistakes of the Nehruvian era. Consequently, it is a by-product of dangerous analysis, bad diagnosis and awful prognosis.

The net impact of this silly idea of FSB is that can ruin the farm sector in India, deny food security and dynamite the food grain economics of the nation. No wonder, the document concludes that the FSB's impact on the economy may be adverse.

And is that what the UPA aiming at - destroying the farm sector too completely before demitting office?

PS: My aged father tells me that ordinary cloth was rationed in the mid-forties. But once the production of cloth increased, rationing stopped. Likewise the solution to food shortage is to increase food production. Reducing this to a distributional issue is absolutely foolish.

*(The author is a Chennai-based Chartered Accountant. He can be contacted at [mrv@mrv.net.in](mailto:mrv@mrv.net.in))*

# India's surveillance project may be as lethal as PRISM



● **Shalini Singh**

Project documents relating to the new Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) reveal the government's lethal and all-encompassing surveillance capabilities, which, without the assurance of a matching legal and procedural framework to protect privacy, threaten to be as intrusive as the U.S. government's controversial PRISM project.

These capabilities are being built even as a debate rages on the extent to which the privacy of Indian Internet and social media users was compromised by the PRISM project. A PIL petition on the subject has already been admitted by the Supreme Court.

The documents in the possession of The Hindu indicate that the CMS project now has a budgeted commitment nearly double that of the Rs. 400-crore estimate that senior officials mentioned in a recent briefing to the media. Once implemented, the CMS will enhance the

government's surveillance and interception capabilities far beyond 'metadata,' data mining, and the original expectation of "instant" and secure interception of phone conversations.

The interception flow diagram, hitherto under wraps, reveals that the CMS being set up by C-DoT - an obscure government enterprise located on the outskirts of New Delhi - will have the capability to monitor and deliver Intercept Relating Information (IRI) across 900 million mobile (GSM and CDMA) and fixed (PSTN) lines as well as 160 million Internet users, on a 'real time' basis through secure ethernet leased lines.

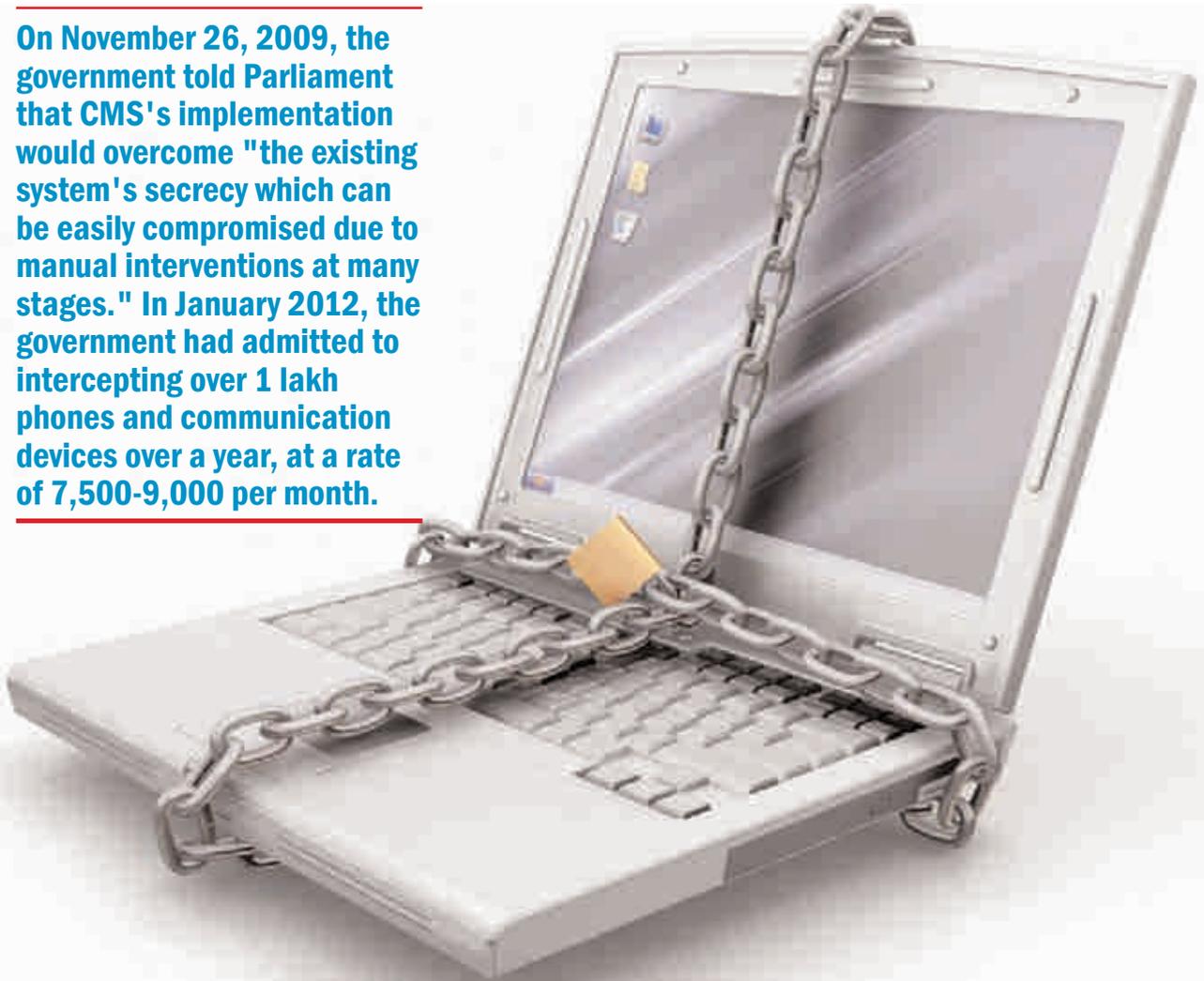
The CMS will have unfettered access to the existing Lawful Interception Systems (LIS), currently installed in the network of every fixed and mobile operator, ISP, and International Long Distance service provider. Mobile and long distance operators, who were required to ensure interception only after they were in

receipt of the "authorisation," will no longer be in the picture. With CMS, all authorisations remain secret within government departments.

This means that government agencies can access in real time any mobile and fixed line phone conversation, SMS, fax, web-site visit, social media usage, Internet search and email, including partially written emails in draft folders, of "targeted numbers." This is because, contrary to the impression that the CMS was replacing the existing surveillance equipment deployed by mobile operators and ISPs, it would actually combine the strength of two - expanding the CMS's forensic capabilities multiple times.

Even where data mining and 'metadata' access through call data records (CDRs) and session initiation protocol data records (SDRs) - used for Internet protocol-related communications including video conferencing, streaming multi-media, instant messaging,

**On November 26, 2009, the government told Parliament that CMS's implementation would overcome "the existing system's secrecy which can be easily compromised due to manual interventions at many stages." In January 2012, the government had admitted to intercepting over 1 lakh phones and communication devices over a year, at a rate of 7,500-9,000 per month.**



presence information, file transfer, video games and voice & fax over IP is concerned - the CMS will have unmatched capabilities of deep search surveillance and monitoring. The CMS is designed to have access to call content (CC) on multiple E1 leased lines through operators 'billing/ mediation servers'. These servers will reveal user information to the accuracy of milliseconds, relating to call duration, identification and call history of those under surveillance. Additionally, it will disclose mobile numbers and email IDs, including pinpointing the target's physical location by revealing cellphone tower information.

### **Nationwide surveillance**

The Hindu's investigation has also unveiled the mystery relating to the CMS's national rollout. Contrary to reports about it being active nationwide, only Delhi and Haryana have tested "proof of concept" (POC) successfully. Kerala, Karnataka and Kolkata are

the next three destinations for CMS's implementation. Till 2015, two surveillance and interception systems will run in parallel - the existing State-wise, 200-odd Lawful Intercept and Monitoring (LIM) Systems, set up by 7 to 8 mobile operators in each of the 22 circles, plus the multiple ISP and international gateways - alongside the national rollout of CMS. The aim is to cover approximately one dozen States by the end of 2013-14.

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### **Privacy vs. security**

Currently two government spy agencies - the Intelligence Bureau (IB), and

the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) - plus seven others, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Narcotics Control Bureau, DRI, National Intelligence Agency, CBDT (tax authority), Military Intelligence of Assam and JK and Home Ministry - are authorised to intercept and monitor citizens' calls and emails, under the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, The Indian Telegraph Act 1985, Rule 419(A) and other related legislation.

Given the major technological advancements in monitoring and enhanced forensic capabilities in surveillance, coupled with the change in procedure which mandates the interception authorization to be kept secret between two government departments with no scope of a transparent public disclosure of who is being monitored, for what purpose and for how long, privacy and free speech activists are protesting and raising many questions. The government, meanwhile, is proceeding undeterred.

# CHINA'S ECONOMIC EMPIRE

HERIBERTO ARAÚJO and JUAN  
PABLO CARDENALHONG KONG

China and economic stagnation in Europe and America is making the West increasingly uncomfortable. While China is not taking over the world militarily, it seems to be steadily taking it over commercially. In just the past week, Chinese companies and investors have sought to buy two iconic Western companies,

Smithfield Foods, the American pork producer, and Club Med, the French resort company.

Europeans and Americans tend to fret over Beijing's assertiveness in the South China Sea, its territorial disputes with Japan, and cyberattacks on

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**By buying companies, exploiting natural resources, building infrastructure and giving loans all over the world, China is pursuing a soft but unstoppable form of economic domination. Beijing's essentially unlimited financial resources allow the country to be a game-changing force in both the developed and developing world, one that threatens to obliterate the competitive edge of Western firms, kill jobs in Europe and America and blunt criticism of human rights abuses in China.**

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Western firms, but all of this is much less important than a phenomenon that is less visible but more disturbing: the aggressive worldwide push of Chinese state capitalism.

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ural resources, building infrastructure and giving loans all over the world, China is pursuing a soft but unstoppable form of economic domination. Beijing's essentially unlimited financial resources allow the country to be a





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**Ultimately, thanks to the deposits of over a billion Chinese savers, China Inc. has been able to acquire strategic assets worldwide. This is possible because those deposits are financially repressed — savers receive negative returns because of interest rates below the inflation rate and strict capital controls that prevent savers from investing their money in more profitable investments abroad. Consequently, the Chinese government now controls oil and gas pipelines from Turkmenistan to China and from South Sudan to the Red Sea.**

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Another pipeline, from the Indian Ocean to the Chinese city of Kunming, running through Myanmar, is scheduled to be completed soon, and yet another, from Siberia to northern China, has

already been built. China has also invested heavily in building infrastructure, undertaking huge

hydroelectric projects like the Merowe Dam on the Nile in Sudan — the biggest Chinese engineering project in Africa — and Ecuador's \$2.3 billion Coca Codo Sinclair Dam. And China is currently involved in the building of more than 200 other dams across the planet, according to International Rivers, a nonprofit environmental organization.

China has become the world's leading exporter; it also surpassed the United States as the world's biggest trading nation in 2012. In the span of just a few years, China has become the leading trading partner of countries like Australia, Brazil and Chile as it seeks resources like iron ore, soybeans and copper. Lower tariffs and China's booming economy explain this exponential growth. By buying mainly natural resources and food, China is ensuring that two of the country's economic

engines — urbanization and the export sector — are securely supplied with the needed resources.

In Europe and North America, China's arrival on the scene has been more recent but the figures clearly show a growing trend: annual investment from China to the European Union grew from less than \$1 billion annually before 2008 to more than \$10 billion in the past two years. And in the United States, investment surged from less than \$1 billion in 2008 to a record high of \$6.7 billion in 2012, according to the Rhodium Group, an economic research firm. Last year, Europe was the destination for 33 percent of China's foreign direct investment.

Government support, through hidden subsidies and cheap financing, gives Chinese state-owned firms a major advantage over competitors. Since 2008, the West's economic downturn has allowed them to gain broad access to Western markets to hunt for technology, know-how and deals that weren't previously available to them. Western assets that weren't on sale in the past now are, and Chinese investments have provided desperately needed liquidity.

This trend will only increase in the future, as China's foreign direct investment skyrockets in the coming years. It



is projected to reach as much as \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion by 2020, according to the Rhodium Group. This means that Chinese state-owned companies that enjoy a monopolistic position at home can now pursue ambitious international expansions and compete with global corporate giants. The unfairness of this situation is clearest in the steel and solar-panel industries, where China has gone from a net importer to the world's largest producer and exporter in only a few years. It has been able to flood the market with products well below market price — and consequently destroy industries and employment in the West and elsewhere.

THIS is the real threat to the United States and other countries. However, most Western governments don't seem to be addressing China's state-driven expansionism as an immediate priority.

On the contrary, European governments dealing with their own economic crises see China as a country that can help, either by buying sovereign debt or going ahead with investments in their countries that will create jobs.

The Chinese state-owned company Cosco currently manages the main cargo terminal in the biggest Greek port, Piraeus, near Athens — a 35-year concession deal. And China's

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**In the Greek port the Chinese have been able to triple capacity, amid local unions' criticism of worsening labor conditions. It's too early to measure China's impact in the other investments, but the fact that Chinese companies are able to invest in sectors that are closed or restricted for European firms in China says a lot about how minimal Europe's leverage with China is.**

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sovereign wealth fund, C.I.C., took a 10 percent stake in London's Heathrow Airport in 2012, as well as a nearly 9 percent stake in the British utility company Thames Water. The state-owned firms Three Gorges Corporation and State Grid are the main foreign investors in Portugal's power-generation sector, and C.I.C. also bought a 7 percent stake in France's Eutelsat Communications.

In the Greek port the Chinese have been able to triple capacity, amid local unions' criticism of worsening labor conditions. It's too early to measure China's impact in the other investments, but the fact that Chinese companies are able to invest in sectors that are closed or restricted for European firms in China says a lot about how minimal Europe's leverage with China is.

Take Germany, which accounts for nearly half of the European Union's exports to China. It's highly unlikely that Berlin would make unfair competition the cornerstone of its China policy. Moreover, the lack of leverage and leadership in Brussels means that the union is unable to take firm action to force China into adopting measures that would level the playing field or guarantee reciprocity in its domestic market.

The only exception is the United States, which seems to be addressing the issue by pushing forward the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a regional trade association that is seen by critics in Beijing and elsewhere as an American-led policy to contain China. The club is thought to be restricted to countries that meet high American standards on issues like free competition, labor and

environmental standards and intellectual property rights. As China doesn't meet those standards, it will have to reform or risk regional isolation. Moreover, the United States has made life difficult for the Chinese telecom giant Huawei by refusing to grant it contracts from leading American telecom companies. This is not just about national security concerns but also about sending Beijing a clear message that the United States government is willing to block one of China's most visible and successful companies.

While Western companies complain about barriers to public procurement and bidding and struggles to compete in restricted sectors in China, Chinese companies enjoy red carpet treatment in Europe, buying up strategic assets and major companies like Volvo and the German equipment manufacturer Putzmeister.

The perception is that China is now unavoidable and, consequently, the

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**Greenland, a massive resource-rich territory largely controlled by Denmark, is a case in point. Last year, it passed legislation to allow foreign workers into the country who earned salaries below the local legal minimum wage (the minimum wage there is one of the highest in the world). Chinese representatives had made it clear that Chinese state-owned banks and companies would invest in the high-risk, costly exploitation of Greenland's vast mining resources only if the modification of local regulations would allow the arrival of thousands of low-wage Chinese workers.**

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only option is to be accommodating — offering everything from a generous investment environment to essentially dropping human rights from the agenda. “We don't have any stick. We can just offer carrots and hope for the best,” a senior European official told us.

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legislation to allow foreign workers into the country who earned salaries below the local legal minimum wage (the minimum wage there is one of the highest in the world). Chinese representatives had made it clear that Chinese state-owned banks and companies would invest in the high-risk, costly exploitation of Greenland's vast mining resources only if the modification of





local regulations would allow the arrival of thousands of low-wage Chinese workers.

The Arctic territory didn't have too many alternatives. No other country is in a position to become Greenland's strategic partner for its future development, given the business risks involved in the Arctic region and the scale of the investment needed in a territory bigger than Mexico but without a single highway. An American oil company couldn't have handled the task alone. The Chinese state capitalist system, by contrast, allows multiple state-owned companies to work together, making it possible for the China National Petroleum Corporation, for instance, to extract oil while China Railway builds basic infrastructure.

Greenland's leaders accepted China's terms because they likely believed these costly projects might never go ahead if the Chinese didn't get involved; only China has the money, the demand, the experience and the political will to proceed. Moreover, there are not enough skilled workers in

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**China's deep pockets, as well as its extensive labor force and unlimited demand for natural resources, made all the difference, and accordingly Greenland was prepared to pass tailor-made legislation to meet Chinese needs. Even Denmark, which holds authority in Greenland in areas like migration and foreign policy, decided not to interfere.**

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Greenland for such projects, so the Greenlandic government made an exception to the law, allowing Chinese laborers to earn less than minimum wage figuring that local residents would benefit from new infrastructure and royalties.

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extensive labor force and unlimited demand for natural resources, made all the difference, and accordingly Greenland was prepared to pass tailor-made legislation to meet Chinese needs. Even Denmark, which holds authority in Greenland in areas like migration and foreign policy, decided not to interfere.

IT is even happening in progressive bastions like Canada. President Obama's refusal thus far to approve the

Keystone pipeline project has made Prime Minister Stephen Harper's conservative government turn to China to secure an export market for Canadian crude oil reserves. The Calgary-based oil industry has lobbied Mr. Harper to adopt a new diversification strategy that includes the construction of a controversial pipeline to western British Columbia, despite strong opposition from environmental groups, the First Nations aboriginal communities and the public. In the meantime, Canada also signed a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with China, which gives remarkably gen-



erous investment protection to the Chinese.

With China in the center of debates over FIPA and the west coast pipeline, Canada's government then approved the takeover of the Canadian energy giant Nexen by the Chinese state-owned oil firm Cnooc. The \$15.1 billion transaction was China's largest foreign takeover.

Closer economic ties have had political side effects; the Harper administration now seems much more cautious in criticizing China's human rights record. Given that Canada was until very recently one of the fiercest voices on China's handling of dissidents, this is not only a remarkable 180-degree turn, but also a clear indication of how China's economic influence can push the political agenda to the sidelines, even in the West.

In Australia, Chinese accumulated investment inflows at the end of 2012 surpassed \$50 billion. The trend is striking: Chinese direct investment in Australia in 2012 increased 21 percent from 2011 levels to reach \$11.4 billion, making it an important player in Australia's mining industry. Australia's trade portfolio remains highly diversified, but the Chinese share is growing rapidly.

China has also become the biggest investor in Germany (in terms of the number of deals), surpassing the United States. Chinese companies are

looking for companies that, like Putzmeister, have a technological edge and have become world leaders in niche markets. Those takeovers also allow them to absorb Western know-how on branding, marketing, distribution and customer relations. Others are more opportunistic. Faced with recession, struggling European firms like Volvo quickly welcomed Chinese partners who were ready to inject capital and take full control.

The loans that Beijing is giving worldwide are even more significant, in dollar terms, than direct foreign investment. These loans include \$40 billion to Venezuela and more than \$8 billion to Turkmenistan in recent years. China's policy banks (China Development Bank and Export-Import Bank of China) are the key institutions supporting China's "Go global" strategy, as they provide billions of dollars in loans to foreign countries to acquire Chinese goods; finance Chinese-built infrastructure; and start projects in the extractive and other industries.

This is clearest in countries where the West claims to link its aid to human rights and good business practices. Chinese loans have been crucial in countries like Angola that have faced threats of a cutoff in financing from Western creditors, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Ecuador, Venezuela, Turkmenistan, Sudan and Iran have all faced such dif-

ficulties, and China has stepped in without political or ethical strings attached. Chinese statistics reveal little about these loans, but

a study by The Financial Times showed that, between 2009 and 2010, China was the world's largest lender, doling out \$110 billion, more than the World Bank.

It is important to remember what is really behind China's global economic expansion: the state. China may be moving in the right direction on a number of issues, but when Chinese state-owned companies go abroad and seek to play by rules that emanate from an authoritarian regime, there is grave danger that Western countries will, out of economic need, end up playing by Beijing's rules.

As China becomes a global player and a fierce competitor in American and European markets, its political system and state capitalist ideology pose a threat. It is therefore essential that Western governments stick to what has been the core of Western prosperity: the rule of law, political freedom and fair competition.

They must not think shortsightedly. Giving up on our commitment to human rights, or being compliant in the face of rapacious state capitalism, will hurt Western countries in the long term. It is China that needs to adapt to the world, not the other way

*Courtesy New York Times*

# Mapping the best brain of Middle East

## Dr Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi



**D**r. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, USA. He is the Director General of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi and a Professor of Political Science at the United Arab Emirates University in Al-Ain. He has taught courses in Political Science Methodology, Political Culture, Comparative Governments, and International Relations at the UAE University and the University of Wisconsin, USA.

Dr. Al-Suwaidi is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Scholarships Office of the Ministry of Presidential

Affairs. He became a member of the Administrative Board of the Emirates Diplomatic Institute in 2001. Dr. Al-Suwaidi was the Chairman of the Board for the Emirates National School and member of Zayed University Council for several years. In July in 2006, Dr. Al-Suwaidi became member of the National Media Council of the UAE, which is presided over by UAE Foreign Affairs Minister His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Dr. Al-Suwaidi is also a member of the Board of Advisors at the School of Policy and International Affairs, University of Maine, USA and in the Board of Advisors at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies,

Georgetown University. He has also been appointed as a member of the Program Advisory Committee for the Department of Translation Studies at the United Arab Emirates University. In September 2009, Dr. Jamal Al-Suwaidi was appointed Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Preparation of National Strategy for Childhood and Motherhood in the UAE by a decree issued by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation, and Chairperson of the General Women's Union.

In 2002, the French government bestowed the French Order of Merit-First Class on Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-



Suwaidi, in recognition of his distinguished efforts in strengthening bilateral relations between the UAE and France. In 2006, Dr. Al-Suwaidi was awarded the Young CEO Award by the Middle East Excellence Awards Institute; and the title of Honorable Professor from the International University, Vienna, in 2008. The President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan presented the Emirates Appreciation Award for Science, Arts and Literature in its Third Round for 2008 to Dr. Al-Suwaidi. In January 2012, His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, honored Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi on his winning the Abu Dhabi 2011 Award. Through the Abu Dhabi Award, the UAE leadership recognizes the achievements and contributions of eminent personalities to the UAE society. In January 2010, Dr. Jamal Al-Suwaidi was conferred the Membership of the Advisory Board of Bahrain Electronic City. He was accorded this honor during the visit of a high-ranking delegation from Electronic City Project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Eisa Al-Khalifa

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of Bahrain to the ECSSR. Dr. Al-Suwaidi has recently been named a trustee of the Emirate-Swiss Friendship Platform and a member of the Advisory Board of Casa Arabe in Spain.

Dr. Al-Suwaidi is the author of numerous articles on a variety of topics including: Gulf Security, Perceptions of Democracy in Arab and Western Societies, Women and Development, and UAE Public Opinion on the Second Gulf Crisis. His articles have appeared in several international journals such as: The Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, 1994; Security Dialogue, 1996; Whitehall Series by Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI), 2000; and

Indian Journal of Politics, 2000.

Dr. Al-Suwaidi is a contributing author to Democracy, War, and Peace in the Middle East (1995) and to Oil and Water: Cooperative Security in the Persian Gulf, (2001). He is also a contributing author and editor to ECSSR publications, The Yemeni War of 1994: Causes and Consequences (1995), The Gulf Co-Operation Council: Prospects for the Twenty-First Century, (1999), The Future of the GCC, (1999), Air/Missile Defense, Counterproliferation, and Security Policy Planning, (1999), The United Arab Emirates Society: A Future Perspective, (2003). He also made sterling contribution to the book titled Iran and the Gulf: A Search for Stability (1997), which won prizes for Best Publisher, Best Arabic Book in Humanities and Social Sciences, and Best Writing at the Sixteenth Annual Sharjah World Book Fair, held on November 4, 1997.

In 2013, Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi authored a book - From Tribe to Facebook: The Transformational Role of Social Networks - which charted the impact of this phenomenon and analyzed the potential outcomes of the accelerated development of social networks.

## Our Editor-in-Chief Mr Prashant Tewari recently visited Abu Dhabi to meet Dr Jamal to interact with legend of Gulf block.

**Q. Sir, how ECSSR is cooperating with governments in UAE to frame policies for the nation?**

**A.** The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research is an independent research organization that provides research and analysis to United Arab Emirates decision-makers on contemporary and pressing issues on the local, Arab, regional, and international levels. ECSSR has been at the forefront of scholarly service to the UAE and has provided timely and necessary advice on political, economic, social, and security matters. While we maintain a research agenda and pursue specific goals that both enhance and preserve UAE interests, we also serve different government departments by doing in-depth studies and analytical papers on matters of their concern. We also conduct opinion surveys on different issues important to UAE decision-makers and statistical studies about aspects that impact both the quality of life in the UAE and how government departments deal with them.

**Q. How ECSSR has impacted the government delivery to people at large?**

**A.** As the premier institution in the United Arab Emirates providing analysis to decision-makers, ECSSR is also an organization that is dedicated to community service, both the scholarly community and the population at large in the UAE. We have the largest public library in the country, providing the latest Arabic and English books and publications, as well as archival material on different aspects of UAE life. We have so far produced close to 1,000 authored and translated books and have widely-read publications such as the refereed quarterly periodical Strategic Visions, the bi-monthly Future Horizons, and the scholarly publications International Studies, Strategic Studies, and The Emirates Occasional Papers.

We also have a public annual conference, annual energy conference, and annual education conference; and occasionally hold symposia and forums on relevant issues. The center also provides a series of public



**We also have a public annual conference, annual energy conference, and annual education conference; and occasionally hold symposia and forums on relevant issues. The center also provides a series of public lectures on different topics every year. All of these activities are geared toward the widest possible public service. Importantly, we have a very active public website, providing the latest analysis and coverage of pressing issues in the UAE, the Arabian Gulf, the Arab world, and the world at large.**

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**Q. How ECSSR is helping UAE government to collaborate with GCC members to effective coordination?**

**A.** ECSSR provides in-depth analysis of domestic and regional issues that impact relations between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council

and between them and the world. We produce studies on political, economic, social, and military and security issues that are of common concern in the GCC. We monitor conditions, report them, and provide timely advice to UAE decision-makers on how to deal with their impact on the wellbeing of the country and other countries of the GCC.

But what we adhere to is the concept of non-interference in the domestic affairs of these countries. Our studies emphasize common GCC goals and cooperation and provide timely advice on how to secure the overall interests of the council.

# WHS- ERADICATING CORRUPTION, CRIME AND BRIBERY WITH DEADLY DECISIVE ACTIONS

**M**r. Joginder (Jo) S Birring is a NRI (Non Resident Indian) Group Chairman WHS (World Homeland Security) who has over 19 years of meta-tactics legal Knowledge and Global investigations experience in locating, retrieving and protecting Assets and Individuals throughout the world with his trusted loyal specialist teams to achieve results cost effectively, peacefully and precisely. Thousands of cases successfully completed in regards to Financial Fraud Identification, Risk monitoring, Offshore Asset/bank account location and recovery, profiling of groups/individuals conducting business transactions via the West into the East and East/West so that activities can be monitored so that fraud can be prevented especially in regards to trust funds/hedge funds and ponzi schemes identified before investors lose money.

The WHS Academy For Counter Terror and Economic Crime is the first of its kind that blends knowledge/cutting edge technology into positive actions for each and every student as the best of the WHS Group specialists train, mentor and monitor the progress of each student/adult while giving them overseas training and business/social tactics . India 21st Century is increasing its knowledge base thus garnering more peaceful solutions/outcomes for Indians in India as well as the NRIs without any caste/religious discriminations. The WHS Academy for Counter Terror and Economic Crime is a concept that was crystallised by Mr. Jo S Birring as he discussed the long term impact that corruption and bribery has in societies throughout the world as it is inter-related to terrorism and in many ways increases the politicians/business people's pockets while the innocent citizens are fooled time and time again at election time. The circle has to be broken and "Prime Time Precise" Education is the key.

We truly feel that further education of peaceful solutions will garner more peaceful conduct in societies throughout the world as well as create good business trade without any fears of loss or fraud in these recessive times. WHS (World



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Homeland Security) Group is presently in

the finalizing stages of launching the Academy with Indian State/Regional Government officials via the WHS Group's India Educational teaching team and The WHS Securities Canada Inc Senior Vice President, David Ma and The Canada Development Director Todd Mooney. Mr. Jo S Birring the Group Chairman and President of WHS Group has strategized solutions successfully on Thousands of complexed Global cases in regards to Financial Fraud Identification, Anti-corruption/Bribery cases, Risk monitoring, Offshore Asset/bank account location, Security meta tactics and recovery, profiling of groups/individuals conducting business transactions via the West into the East - East/West so that activities can be monitored so that fraud can be prevented especially in regards to trust funds/hedge funds and ponzi schemes identified before investors lose money. Mr. Jo.S.Birring has built and maintained close trusted working links in the Global law enforcement and legal professionals who have entrusted Mr. Jo.S Birring to deliver results with his precision planning strategies coupled with action solutions on their timeframe sensitive projects fully aware that everything would be conducted safely in the strictest of confidence as he leads his Global teams into focused actions.

The Great combination Of Indian/Mid East Educational institutes can certainly benefit more in the coming year/years as The WHS Counter Terror and Economic Crime Academy/Academies will bridge the gaps as well as increase business trade and student exchanges. It will also help the Indian/Mid East Governments understand and learn more about the different types of financial crimes in South Asia as well as learn more about the Terrorist mindsets/structures thus making Indian/Mid East a safer region in the coming years. It will also help the Governments/Politicians understand and learn more about investment potentials especially in these recessive times where alot of the money invested in Europe/Canada/USA by Indian/Mid East companies is being divested so why should they invest in the west. The WHS

Group will be providing monitoring and company certifications/seals of approval in regards to which Western/Eastern companies are solid and corruption/bribery free without any legal cases registered against them so that Indian/Mid East companies/individuals feel safely assured. The WHS Counter Terror and Economic Crime Academy will also highlight/educate the best of the west to Indian/Mid East students/Indian corporations so that more inflows/outflows of western investment can rise India/Mid East more safely and successfully.

The WHS Counter Terror and Economic Crime Academy in India will also be providing online educational courses with highly experienced WHS Group and its subsidiary Group The WOW (Woman Of the World) Group Senior specialists who combined have over 50 years of Global experience in their respective fields of Criminal/Corporate Law, Investigations, Security, Anti-Terrorism and Forensic solutions throughout the World. The educational courses for Women will give Women in all parts of the world much more hope with increased knowledge as they can than educate their children thus as they grow they can contribute more positively to society without being manipulated or tempted into crimes or terrorism. Indian women/Girls will be given training in regards to self protection so that NO twisted two-legged rapist animal walks like a man again and The WOW Group will make sure of that no matter what the "slow" law serves or fails to deliver as justice will be justice in the confines of international law. The Online Educational Courses in India/Mid East will be highly secured and professionally serviced 24hrs 365 days. The Students will be given travel visas for student exchange and employment opportunities in India/Mid East and Overseas as the WHS Group Intel units guide, protect the students from any discrimination/hate crimes against them in the west.

Our WHS Group travel, legal and medical Insurance policies will be provided with a 24 hr 365 hotline so that the students and their parents have extra peace of mind.

The WHS Group has also launched two subsidiaries that will be pivotal in the coming months/years as the world changes at a faster pace creating more pressures on the general public and the political/legal systems in place. The 1st subsidiary company is the "Uniting Nations Of Welfare" (UNOW) Group which will be led by Jo S Birring the Group Founder/Global Chairman of The WHS



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Group and the WHS Securities Canada Inc Senior Vice President David Ma and Todd Mooney in Canada. This is going to help the innocent people in India/Mid East Europe and Canada claim the right welfare that the states/governments owe its citizens so that the greedy politicians and bankers do not pocket or steal the money. It will also be assisting the government departments so that NO false claims are made thus allowing the Government departments to save the money and contribute back into the infrastructure and creating more schools, hospitals/new jobs without the Government/Governments raising anymore taxes. The 2nd WHS Group subsidiary company is the "Innovations Pakistan, India, China and Middle East" (The IPIC ME Group) which will be led by Jo S Birring the Group Founder/Global Chairman of The WHS Group with David Ma/Todd Mooney and the consortium of already selected esteemed companies/individuals in these countries.

The IPIC ME Group will be uniting the best of these countries peacefully with new products innovations that make the world a greener and more eco friendly planet. The best of the best engineers, teachers, religious studies, horticulturists, writers and movie producers/direc-

tors will showcase and highlight the best from their countries as knowledge increases for all so that western countries/companies/politicians realise that there is more ways to achieve peaceful outcomes instead of bombing, maiming, land grabbing from innocent people, manipulating politicians, overthrowing governments and supporting/arming unstable regimes as these ways only fan the flames of terrorism, extremism and invites more "Lone wolf" attackers to your front doors in the west as you wail cry wolf to the world and also increases the frustrations of the ethnic people living in your countries as was the case of the Boston Bombers and the London Woolwich Wolves on a mindless rampage. The people who suffer are the innocent and the blame rests for this suffering/ pain on the politicians/terrorists who brainwash and send good honest men to fight dirty greedy wars so that most bankers/unstable regimes benefit. When the brave soldiers return back (some unfortunately missing arms, legs and parts of their skulls with most of their minds shot away) they get rewarded with a simple gold medal or two/pat on the back/a promise of a hot seat in heaven and no other benefit as they are left to rot away. We at the WHS Group are there to help these former soldiers who have been disabled in action with peaceful educational solutions so that they and their families get more peace of mind for the horrors they faced as well as what they were brainwashed to commit for their countries who now simply do not care so much. We at The WHS Group care and that is why some of you are now preaching peace with us and being allowed a platform to dissuade others from picking up arms against the innocent people irrespective of the country, culture or religious beliefs of one.

We at The WHS (World Homeland Security) For Counter Terror and Economic Crime Academy believe that Education is "THE KEY to a safer more civil and peaceful world and that a mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions and the main part of intellectual education is not the acquisition of facts but learning how to make facts live. My roots of culture are Indian, I am a Global Soul and my religion is humanity as peaceful education thrives as the young blossom into greater law abiding, peaceful loving, caring and wiser adults. Knowledge is knowing...wisdom is doing peacefully" - Jo S Birring.

**Jo Birring can be contacted at email: [jbirring@worldhomelandsecurity.com](mailto:jbirring@worldhomelandsecurity.com)**

# SHARP MIND BRINGS SHARP LEADERSHIP: KIRSAN ILYUMZHINOV

**K**irsan Nikolayevich Ilyumzhinov is a Kalmyk multi-millionaire businessman and politician. He was the President of the Republic of Kalmykia in the Russian Federation from 1993 to 2010, and he has been the President of FIDE (or the "World Chess Federation"), the world's pre-eminent international chess organization, since 1995. He has also been in the forefront of promoting chess in schools in Russia and overseas. He is the founder of Novy Vzglyad Publishing House. In addition to his native Kalmyk and Russian, he can speak English, Japanese, and a bit Korean, Mongolian and Chinese languages. Ilyumzhinov was born in Elista, Kalmykia.

He studied at the Moscow State Institute of Foreign Relations from 1983 to 1989. Between 1989 and 1990 he was a sales manager for the Soviet-Japanese automobile company "Liko-Raduga" in Moscow, and from 1990 until 1993 he was President of SAN Corporation in Moscow. Ilyumzhinov acquired his wealth with the emergence of the private sector which followed the collapse of the USSR. Kirsan is married to Danara Ilyumzhinova (née Davashkina) and they have one son, David. Ilyumzhinov also has two brothers, Sanal and Vyacheslav.

Ilyumzhinov has drawn world-wide attention for claiming personal contact with aliens, alleging that they took him on a mystical tour of the galaxy in their spaceship in 1997.

## Political career

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On April 12, 1993, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was elected as the first president of the Republic of Kalmykia, and remained president until 2010. Soon after his election, Ilyumzhinov introduced presidential rule, concentrating power in his own hands. He called early elections on October 15, 1995 and was re-elected unopposed this time for a 7-year term. He won re-election in 2002. Ilyumzhinov's election platform for the presidency of Kalmykia included promising voters \$100 each and a mobile phone for every shepherd-much of the population

## 1st President of Kalmykia

### IN OFFICE

**23 April 1993 - 24 Oct 2010**

**Preceded by : Post Established**

**Succeeded by : Aleksey Orlov**

### PERSONAL DETAILS

**Born : April 5, 1962 (age 51)**

**Elista, Kalmyk ASSR, USSR**

**Nationality : Kalmyk**

**Political party : United Russia**

**Spouse(s) : Danar Davashkina**

**Profession : Businessman**

**Religion : Buddhism**



**H.E. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov with Mr Prashant Tewari & Hon'ble Kapil Sibal Min of Telecommunications in a function recently organised in New Delhi by Pantel technologies to show case tablet PC**

of Kalmykia living from agriculture. He once campaigned under the slogan "a wealthy president is a safeguard against corruption." He also pledged to introduce what he called an "economic dictatorship" in the republic, as well as to continue to promote chess in Kalmykia, in Russia and to the wider world. After his re-election in 1995, Ilyumzhinov reportedly told a journalist from the Russian daily Izvestia, "Irrespective of what I tell people, I give them instructions on a sub-conscious level, a code. I do the same thing when I communicate with Russian citizens from other regions. I am creating around the republic a kind of extra-sensory field and it helps us a lot in our projects."

Ilyumzhinov has striven to become an "Asian values" authoritarian like his Singaporean, Korean, and Chinese role models (even though his republic is in the southern European portion of Russia). He has spent millions of dollars on chess and supporting religion, building a Catholic church at the instigation of the Pope John Paul II. He has also built a mosque, a synagogue, 22 Orthodox churches, and 30 Buddhist

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temples. Chess was made a compulsory subject in the first three years of elementary school—the only place in the world where this is the case. The region now has numerous champions. The 14th Dalai Lama has visited Kirsan Ilyumzhinov on many occasions and has blessed a number of the temples in Elista, as well as Kalmyk Buddhist temples overseas. Recently, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov visited India to seek blessings from HH Chandraswamiji in New Delhi with his wife.

### **FIDE career**

Since November 1995, Ilyumzhinov

has been President of the World Chess Federation, investing a large amount of his private fortune into the game. He has been enthusiastic about attracting international tournaments to Kalmykia, and many grandmasters have done so. His flamboyant plans to build an extravagant Chess City in the republic led to protests by some people, but have been praised by others for generating good publicity. The 1996 bout between Gata Kamsky and Anatoly Karpov was originally scheduled to be played in Baghdad. However the international response was so harsh that FIDE moved the match to Elista where it received more positive international attention.

In the summer of 1998, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov announced his possible candidacy for the Russian presidency. This coincided with Anatoly Karpov being critical of the annual knockout FIDE world title system. Karpov argued that his contract with FIDE stipulated that the winner of the 1998 Karpov-Anand match would hold the title for two years. Karpov's successful advocacy of his rights led to the can-

cellation of a planned world title knockout series in Las Vegas, Nevada, later in that year. Since Karpov had an unsuccessful year, apart from his match against Anand, and he was unable to resist the plan that he would have to enter this knockout, whenever it came to be organized, at a far earlier stage.

Ilyumzhinov managed to persuade the 140 member countries of FIDE to take part in the main team event of the year, the Chess Olympiad, scheduled to start in late September 1998, in Elista. However the event started late due to the failure to complete the new venue in time. In the end, it attracted 110 teams to the main event, a Swiss system contest shortened to 13 rounds to allow for the delay.

On June 2, 2006, Ilyumzhinov was re-elected as FIDE President by a margin of 96-54 against his opponent Bessel Kok. In an October 2006 Wall Street Journal article Garry Kasparov, who backed a rival to Ilyumzhinov, criticized Ilyumzhinov FIDE's leadership stating: "Ilyumzhinov) has created a vertical column of power that would be familiar to any observer of Russia today." Nigel Short, the British grandmaster who also supported Kirsan's rival for the leadership of FIDE, joined Kasparov's misgivings at Ilyumzhinov's victory.

On September 29, 2010, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was reelected as President of FIDE defeating his rival, Anatoly Karpov decisively - winning this election by 95 votes to 55.

During his recent visit to India, Kirsan met India's Telecom Minister Mr Kapil Sibal to discuss enhancement of bilateral ties between India & Russia. H.E. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was presented with the world's cheapest tablet PC by Hon'ble Kapil Sibal. The visiting dignitary discussed incorporation of chess in schools as subject to promote the game with millions of Indians.

*Inputs from Bhuwan Fulara*

# Why Sectors That Use Tablets for Governance Is Expanding

Their no sector in the world is untouched from technology. Tablets are now the most influencing technology invention that is positively affecting several working sectors, all thanks to the IT innovators. Tablets have become common like notebooks these days in most of the workplace, whereas some workplaces are still in evolving stage. Penta T-Pad is a lightweight mobile computing device which is affordable, durable, supports internet and voice connectivity along with thousands of useful application. Due to above features and its high portability nature, Areas that depend a lot on tablets presently are:

## E-Governance

Pantel Technologies aims to be part of this governance revolution, to redefine governance to provide SMART Governance. This approach has the potential of enabling huge savings in costs through sharing of core and support infrastructure, enabling interoperability through standards, and of presenting a seamless view of Government to citizens.

The effective use of Penta T-Pads in government administration can greatly enhance existing efficiencies, drive down communication costs, and increase transparency in the functioning of various departments. It can also aid in easy access to tangible benefits for citizens, be it through simple applications such as online form filling, bill sourcing and payments, or complex applications like distance education and tele-medicine.

Pantel Technologies with its range of Penta T-Pads plans to gradually extend eGovernance to all departments eventually, leveraging the power of IT to streamline administrative functions and increase transparency.

## Education

Education sector is adopting new technologies very fast, as it is the matter of children's future and no one wants to take any risk. Government and vendors are taking initiative to develop education eco system on Tablets PC. Penta T Pad have launched with sufficient features for educational use for both teacher and student at competitive price. Tablets will

relieve students from the heavy burden of lots of book. Tablets serves the purpose of taking notes, reading books creating and submitting schoolwork for students, where teachers can use it to maintain attendance, syllabus distribution, progress report and even for interacting with parents of students. Tablet is bridging the digital gap in the society with its affordable computing, durability and portability. In near future Tablet PC will become integral part of education.

## Healthcare

For many advanced healthcare units tablets are not new to them. For decade's touchscreen have been used in hospitals it may or may not be surprising but healthcare is the one of the prominent areas concerning to the fact of deployments of tablets at large scale in recent time due to advancement, affordability and portability in the Tablet PC. Likewise is the pharmaceutical company. Tablets are used to maintain treatment records of all the patients separately in a well-organized manner. Doctors can liaise with other doctors on check-up and drug related issues of a patients.

## Retails and sales

Be it in store or field, both sales members are benefiting from tablets. Tablets being mobile device help them to complete transaction and check inventory right before the customer in any part of the store. Now, sales executives do not need to go to the cash counters to check inventory or to find discount details, this saves time for both customer and store employees. For retailers with extra screen, tablets fit the bill perfectly for promotion of their products.

## Legal

Huge numbers of book on laws make it almost impossible for lawyers to access them anytime anywhere but not with tablets in hand, they are capable to access library containing books on law. Now days, in courtroom lawyers use tablets to refer laws, to look for at the case details and even to shoe evidence to the court.

# WHAT DOES **FALLING** **RUPEE** MEAN?

**1. When the rupee moves from 50 per US dollar to 60 per US dollar, why do we call it 'depreciation' and not 'appreciation' given that the rupee has risen against the dollar?**

Let's replace rupee with potatoes. Today, US\$ 1 can buy 50 pieces of potatoes. Tomorrow, 1 US\$ can buy 60 potatoes.

This means that potatoes have gotten cheaper since you can buy more pieces for the same US\$ 1. Alternatively, it means that potatoes have depreciated or declined in value.

The same is true for the rupee. When US\$ 1 can buy 50 rupees today, and 60 rupees tomorrow, it means that the value of the rupee has depreciated or declined. On the other hand, if the Rs per US\$ rate moves from 45 today to 40 tomorrow, it means that the value of the rupee has appreciated or risen against the US dollar.

**2. Everyone is saying that the depreciating rupee will make things expensive. How?**

The rupee depreciation will not make just about everything expensive. It will only make those things expensive that we import from outside India.

Crude oil (that is used to make petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG) is one such commodity that we import in huge quantities. Let's assume you can buy 1 barrel of crude oil for US\$ 100 today.

**The same is true for the rupee. When US\$ 1 can buy 50 rupees today, and 60 rupees tomorrow, it means that the value of the rupee has depreciated or declined. On the other hand, if the Rs per US\$ rate moves from 45 today to 40 tomorrow, it means that the value of the rupee has appreciated or risen against the US dollar.**





But you don't have US\$ 100 with you. So you go to a bank, pay it Rs 5,000 and get US\$ 100 in return (assuming US\$ 1 = Rs 50 currently).

Now assume, the rupee depreciates to Rs 60 per US\$ (as it has), and you again need to buy 1 barrel of crude oil. Now you need to give the bank Rs 6,000 to get US\$ 100 in return to pay for oil.

While the international oil price has remained at US\$ 100 per barrel, it has still gotten expensive for you to buy it because the rupee has depreciated to Rs 60 per US\$, from Rs 50 earlier.

Now convert 1 barrel of oil with everything we import in India. Rupee's depreciation would mean that these imported things will become expensive for us.

As for oil, since we consume it in so many places – for cooking, transportation, and power generation – these will also become expensive due to rupee's depreciation against the US dollar.

**Now assume, the rupee depreciates to Rs 60 per US\$ (as it has), and you again need to buy 1 barrel of crude oil. Now you need to give the bank Rs 6,000 to get US\$ 100 in return to pay for oil. While the international oil price has remained at US\$ 100 per barrel, it has still gotten expensive for you to buy it because the rupee has depreciated to Rs 60 per US\$, from Rs 50 earlier.**

Alternatively, when the rupee appreciates against the US dollar, our imports (like crude oil) become cheaper.

### 3. What about things that India exports?

With depreciating rupee, exports will become lucrative for Indian companies. This is simply because every US\$ 1 of export income can now be converted into Rs 60, as against Rs 50 earlier.

So even when a company earns US\$ 1 from exporting one unit of its product

(like it was earning earlier), its income will increase in Indian rupee terms.

All in all, depreciating rupee is bad for companies that import things and good for companies that export. Alternatively, appreciating rupee is good for companies that import things and bad for companies that export.

By the way, one negative impact that companies feel when rupee depreciates is on their foreign borrowings. Suppose a company borrowed US\$ 100 in 2010 and then converted it into Rs



4,500 (at Rs 45 per US\$) to spend on its expansion. Now, when it has to repay that loan of US\$ 100, it needs to pay the bank Rs 6,000 because the rupee has depreciated to Rs 60 per US\$.

So, in an environment of depreciating rupee, companies with US\$ borrowings face a negative impact on their balance sheets.

#### **4. But what determines whether the rupee depreciates or appreciates against the US dollar or any other currency?**

It's simply demand and supply. If people demand more of a thing while its supply is low, the price of the thing will rise, right?

On the other hand, if something is in excess supply in the market as compared to demand, the price of that thing will fall.

This also holds true for currencies. When supply of rupee rises while demand falls, the value of the rupee depreciates (like it is depreciating now).

As far as the current rupee depreciation is concerned, it is large a result of appreciation of US dollar than any inherent weakness in the rupee.

A lot of money is finding its way through to the safety of the US dollar (yes, despite all the problems in the US,

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the dollar is still the safest paper currency in the world!).

What this means is that the demand for the US dollar is rising. Thus the dollar is rising in value, and subsequently the rupee is facing a downward pressure.

Another reason for the pressure on rupee is massive selling by foreign institutional investors. Foreigners, who had invested in Indian stocks, are pulling out money and thus demanding dollars that they can take back home. This is adding to the rupee's fall.

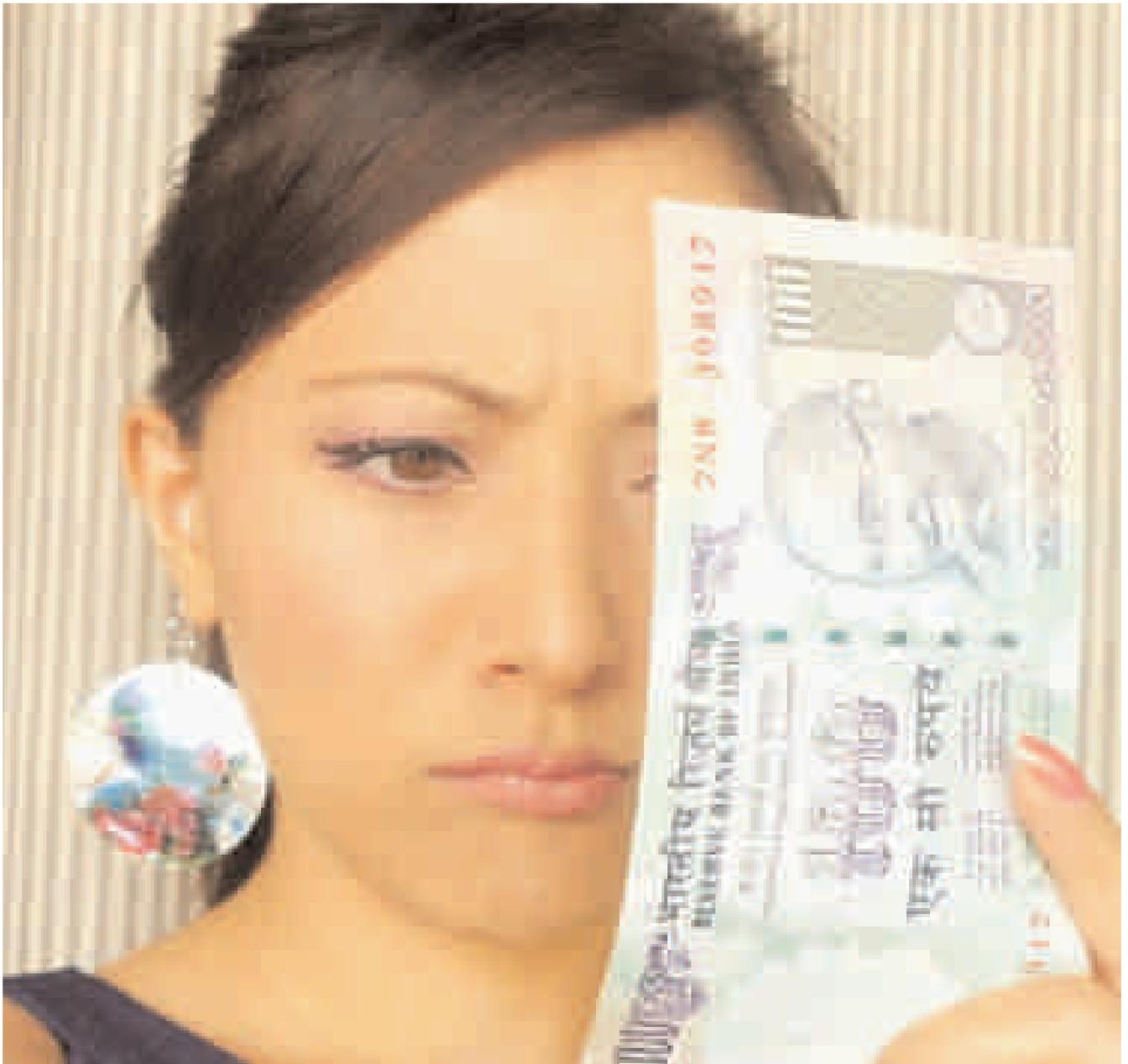
The circle of vicious. When foreigners sell in Indian rupee and demand US dollars to take back home, it pulls the

rupee down. And before the rupee gets pulled down even further, the foreigners would like to sell even more, which would add to the pressure on the rupee.

#### **5. Does the rupee depreciation impact stock market investors?**

Yes. As we discussed above, rupee's depreciation negatively impacts imports. Thus, Indian companies that import a lot of raw materials will face pressure on their profits if the rupee continues to weaken against the US dollar, or even if it remains at the current weak levels.

The companies that import oil derivatives (crude or palm oil) as raw materi-



als – like those from the paint, plastics and FMCG industries – will be especially hurt on their margins in the short to medium term.

Also, companies that have foreign borrowings on their books will see a negative impact on their profits.

On the other hand, Indian companies (like those from the IT and pharmaceutical sectors) that are major exporters, will benefit from the falling rupee.

So, overall, while rupee's current depreciation is bad for you as a consumer or an investor in companies that import a lot, it is good if you own a software company or are an investor in one of them.

Also, if you are an Indian working abroad and earning US dollars, you can remit more rupees to your depend-

ents in India.

#### **Can things get dangerous?**

I hate predicting, especially the future!

But if I were to venture a guess, I remember reading about the impact of currency volatility on South Asia in 1997. India was spared then, given our dealings in foreign exchange were not big enough.

As things stand now, the rupee is more closely related to the US dollar than ever.

This is especially true of the Indian stock market, which largely depends on the mood of foreign investors, especially in the short term.

Much of the growth we have seen over the past few years has been caused by artificial liquidity (cheap

and easy money) flowing around the world, which is not a sustainable situation in the long run.

So, a sharp mood swing of the foreign punter, coupled with low levels of confidence of Indian investors, and we may find ourselves in a crisis of sorts.

Remember, we side-stepped the Asian financial crisis in 1997, and were not majorly impacted even in 2008.

This makes us as vulnerable as the drunkard who has no experience of falling in the manhole, and thus has a weak defense mechanism to avoid falling into one.

Sadistically, as an investor, I hope we fall...so that assets I am eyeing are available at prices I want to buy them.

*(Coutesy: safalniveshak.com )*

# NUMBER-CRUNCHING AFTER CHAMPIONS' TRIUMPH



**India, under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy, have won the ICC World Cup, ICC World Twenty20 and the ICC Champions Trophy - the first captain to have won all three ICC trophies. India beat England by 5 runs in a rain-curtailed final of the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.**

## Here are some other statistical highlights:

- India have won both the Grand Finals against England in ODIs - by two wickets in the NatWest series at Lord's on July 13, 2002 and by five runs at Edgbaston in the ICC Champions Trophy at Edgbaston on June 23, 2013.
- India have defeated England in all three games in the ICC Champions Trophy, enjoying 100% success rate - their previous two wins being by eight wickets at Colombo (RPS) on September 22, 2002 and by four wickets at Jaipur on October 15, 2006.
- For the first time, a team batting first, has won the final of the ICC Champions Trophy.
- Also for the first time, India have won six games in succession in the ICC Champions Trophy - between September 30, 2009 and June 23, 2013.
- Shikhar Dhawan has established an Indian record for the highest run-aggregate in an ICC Champions Trophy competition - 363 runs (ave.90.75) in five matches, including two hundreds and a fifty. Only Chris Gayle has amassed more runs than Dhawan - 474 (ave.79.00) in eight matches in 2006-07.
- Dhawan has received his first Player of the series award in ODIs.
- Sourav Ganguly had managed 348 (ave.116.00) in four matches in 2000-01.
- Dhawan is the only batsman to aggregate 300 runs apart from recording strike rate of 100-plus (101.39) in an ICC Champions Trophy competition
- Rohit Sharma, with 177 runs at an average of 35.40 in five matches, is the second highest run-getter for India in the just concluded competition.
- Ravi Bopara (3/20) has produced his best bowling performance in the ICC Champions Trophy. The said performance is also his best vs India in ODIs.
- Bopara's excellent figures are the best by an England bowler vs India in the ICC Champions Trophy.
- Bopara's figures of 3 for 20 are his second best in ODIs, next only to the four for 38 vs Bangladesh at Birmingham on July 12, 2010.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni's first duck vs England is his seventh in ODIs. As captain, Dhoni has posted his second duck in 140 matches - his first being vs Australia at Visakhapatnam on October 20, 2010.
- Virat Kohli (43 off 34 balls) has posted his highest score in six ODI finals,





outstripping the 37 off 57 balls vs Sri Lanka at Dambulla on August 28, 2010.

- Kohli has averaged 58.66 in the ICC CT 2013 - his tally being 176 in five matches, including a fifty.

- Ravindra Jadeja is averaging 52.16 vs England in ODIs - his aggregate being 313 in eleven innings (five times not out), including two fifties.

- Rohit Sharma's wicket today is the first in the mandatory Powerplay for India in the just concluded competition.

- Alastair Cook has averaged 32.20 in five matches in the just concluded ICC Champions Trophy - his aggregate being 161, including two fifties.

- James Anderson, with eleven wickets at 13.72 runs apiece in five matches, has set an England record for the highest wicket-aggregate in the ICC CT 2013, obliterating Stuart Broad's tally of ten at 15.50 runs apiece in three matches in 2009-10.

- Eoin Morgan (33 off 30 balls) has posted his highest score in the ICC Champions Trophy 2013.

- Ravi Bopara and Eoin Morgan have shared a stand of 64 - England's highest fifth-wicket partnership vs India in the ICC Champions Trophy.

- Ravindra Jadeja, with 12 wickets at 12.83 runs apiece, has finished as the



leading wicket-taker in the just concluded competition. His tally is an Indian record in the ICC Champions Trophy.

- Jadeja's fourth MOM award vs

England is his seventh in ODIs.

- Ravichandran Ashwin has taken three catches in an ODI for the first time.

# WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE: SMITHA DEEPAK

"Smitha Deepak is an Indian-born model, TV anchor and a serial entrepreneur, currently the founder and CEO of The Green Creation, Inc. a designer organic clothing company. A sports enthusiast, she's a swimmer and has been an athlete throughout her life. After completing her MBA from India, she moved to the United States in 2002 and since made Bay Area, California her home." Opinion Express team interacted with her online to present a case study of a successful woman.

**Q. Smitha Deepak is a performer, what motivates you to excel in life?**

I'm actually an entrepreneur (founder CEO of The Green Creation), I'm a TV anchor with WomenNow TV, an event Host and also a model (brand ambassador for several brands)

First and foremost, I never think of my work as a "job", instead, I work with passion. You need to love our work to get and stay motivated. We all have one life to live, so we might as well make it flavorful. I love variety and I feel that there's no limit on how much one can achieve in life, and age is never a bar; you're never too young or old to do something. I'm a people person, so it makes it very easy for me to connect with the community. Being in the profession that I am in (retail and media); you need to be able to develop that connection and network with the people easily. I'm also very focused and organized. I wake up at 3am every morning (including weekends) and know exactly what I need to accomplish during that day. I have short term and long term goals and I'm much focused. Lastly, I believe in taking care of myself; when we take care of ourselves, we can very easily take care of everything around you. All of the above helps me, motivates me and keeps me smiling, and everything falls in the right place!

**Q. What is the most innovative thing you have done during your professional journey so far?**

My philosophy about life is: normal is boring. If you want to excel, you have





or loser and everyone is the best in their own way. For that reason, watching an audition is harder than actually auditioning for something. At the same time, because you watch so much varied talent, you get to learn from them too. I've seen people who grew out of nothing but their talent and determination that they showcase is very inspiring.

**Q. Your message to young women of India?**

Women are very strong, stronger than they think they really are, and sometimes the only limitations that they have are the ones they place on themselves. It's important to get out of your comfort zone and explore the infinite opportunities. We're fighters; we are daughters, sisters, and mothers and have this magical power of balancing life extremely well. So get out there and show the world you've come to live, not just to survive. Get your inner mojo out and showcase your talent, be confident and never give up!

to be different and do more than just normal. I've done everything from taping while skydiving and shooting with large reptiles, and keeping my horizon large enough to be a brand ambassador for fashion lines to sports. I've always stepped out of my comfort zone and tried something new, and it's always been a pleasant experience.

**tioning)? What did you learn from that?**

Yes! and I hate it because now, I need to judge people. There's no winner

**Q. Besides being an stage artist, what other training have you had (voice, dance, stage combat, etc.)?**

I'm not professionally trained in anything I do, but have succeeded tremendously in everything I touched. I'm a great example to everyone who wants to do something, but always feared that they might not have the experience or professional training. All you need is the willingness to learn and succeed. I'm an actor today, a model tomorrow, a speaker the next day, a host, or maybe a skydiver another day; you give me a role and I'll execute it with poise. You need to wear your confidence all the time, and sometimes that is all you need.

**Q. If you could choose, what three actors would you really want to work with?**

1. Farhan Akhtar: because he's someone who can pull off anything and is multi-talented.
2. Shabana Azmi: because she exemplifies strength.
3. Rahul Bose: because that's my style of acting, natural and effortless.

**Q. Have you ever gotten a chance to be on the other side of the table at an audition (watching, instead of audi-**





## Strategic Location

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

### Immediate Hinterland

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

### Secondary Hinterland

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

## Connectivity

### By Road

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

### By Rail

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

## Development Potential & Planned Facility

### Phase I - 5 Berths :

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

## SEZ & FTWZ

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

## Cargo Potential

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

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