

OPINION

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COVER STORY

CRISIS OF CREDIBILITY

AS UPA GOVT HEADS TOWARDS THE PEOPLE'S COURT, THE
COALITION IS TOTTERING ON THE WAY

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editorial

Anna epic battle unites India



In 2011 comes a man from a village in Maharashtra who awakens the nation and says that it is our Dharma to eradicate corruption. Tens of thousands of Indian men, women, children, artisans, farmers and students of all age groups have joined Anna Hazare to cleanse the Indian society of corruption. It is a powerful movement that is absolutely apolitical. The movement has support of people of all walks of life who are votaries of all major and

minor faiths of the world and they are all non-violent; absolutely peaceful.

AHINSA or absence of violent means to achieve the end, is the basic Mantra of this mass movement of Anna Hazare. It is a unique feature of this peaceful protest. The whole world recognises the Rights of free thought and expression. Suppressing this freedom of Expression would amount to violation of Human Rights.

It is his innocent and child-like smile that draws strangers close to him. He smiles even in adverse circumstances. He smiles when he fasts. He smiles when the jail authorities denied him water for a bath since he stayed on in the administrative building of the jail even after his official release. Anna Hazare does not raise the pitch of his voice even when the group discussion degenerates into a slanging match. Anna Hazare is as cool as a cucumber, calm as the sea-surface in non-tsunami nights and focused as a camera lens. He knows what to do, when to do and how to do. Indeed the secret of his success in all his projects lies in his planning, preparation and execution from A to Z. Further, Anna chooses his colleagues well and never lets a selfish person take undue advantage of his nearness to Anna Hazare.

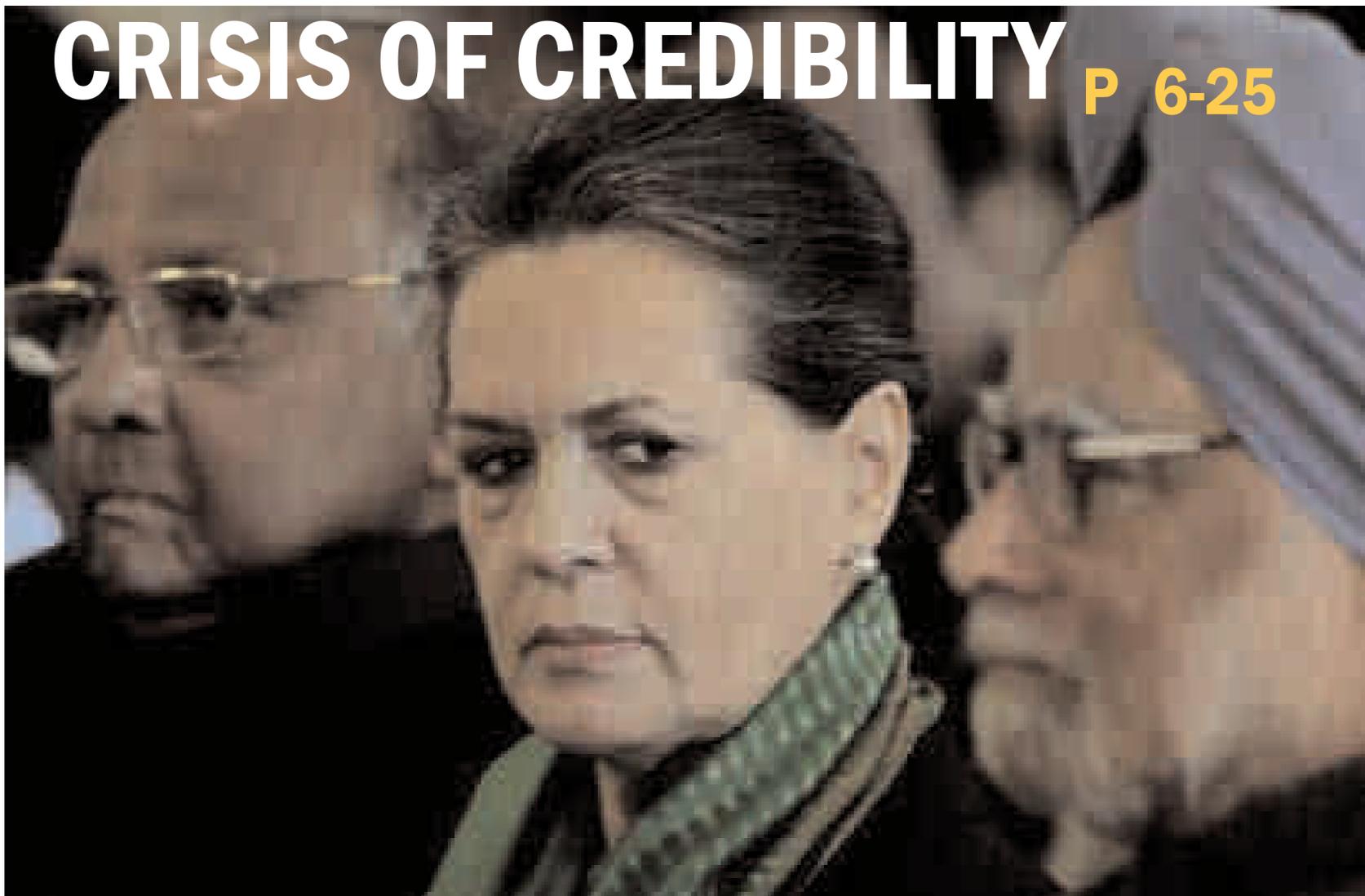
Now the world media is taking interest in the Anna generated People's Movement for having a LOKPAL who would oversee the official work of all government departments, all government servants, even the highest of the high and thus leave no room for corruption. When corruption is got rid of, the people of Bharat will heave a sigh of relief. The demon of corruption and thereby generation of black money and consequent of stashing ill gotten wealth in foreign banks made our motherland poorest of the poor.

The Indian Parliament unanimously resolved that the Standing Committee would consider Anna's three demands - including the lower bureaucracy in the Lokpal's purview, a central law for creating Lok Ayuktas in states and a citizen's charter for government departments providing public service.

He has tapped into a nation's rising frustration and anger against corruption of the most scandalous proportions, and channeled it into a mass movement that has shaken the government to its foundation, and placed the entire political class on notice. With the elimination of the demon of corruption, the common man will improve his standard of living. His lifestyle will be in conformity with the norms laid down by the greatest law-giver,

It is a token victory for people of India but the real battle is just about to start now, Anna Hazare has lit a fire. It's for every one of us to keep the flame of hope alive.

Prashant Tewari



CRISIS OF CREDIBILITY P 6-25



SPORTS

**India's
worst
show in
overseas
destination**

P 36

**GLAMZONE: Loving my
journey back home :Dimple P 46**



**P 50 BAHRAIN'S WHO'S WHO RELEASED
IN CHICAGO**

**P 30 | Economy: Global Economic Crisis,
fixing it**

**P 33 | Clever Innovation coming
to India**

**P 44 | Lifestyle: Brand
Ambassador for
Metro Shoes, Saif Ali
Khan shoots for the
line 'CASUAL TO
CLASSY'**



Anna storm sweeps India - War against corruption is ON

27 Aug 2011, NEW DELHI: History was made in Parliament on Saturday when the two Houses bowed to Anna Hazare's campaign, powered by a groundswell of popular support, for a strong and independent Lokpal.

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha unanimously resolved that the Standing Committee would consider Anna's three demands - including the lower bureaucracy in the Lokpal's purview, a central law for creating Lok Ayuktas in states and a citizen's charter for government departments providing public service. This finally paved the way for Anna's 12-day fast to end.

This is the first instance of Parliament explicitly agreeing to accommodate demands raised by an 'outsider', that too when the official bill had already been moved. A jubilant Anna Hazare responded to Parliament's endorsement of his demands by announcing that he would call off his fast at 10am on Sunday. His aides promptly called upon the people to flock to Ramlila Maidan to participate in this victory of popular will.

Later, the PM publicly threw his weight behind the reconciliation. "Parliament has spoken. Parliament's will is the will of the people," he said, bringing a closure to the standoff.

Parliament's extraordinary gesture on Saturday brought out its capacity to adapt and innovate in response to an extraordinary expression of popular aspirations, reflected in the countrywide outpouring of support for Anna's anti-corruption charter. A huge throng camped at Ramlila Maidan as Parliament debated Anna's demands.

The day also saw the much-maligned political class rise to the challenge. Speeches in both Houses were non-partisan, and effectively rebuffed anxieties about Parliament's relevance or its preparedness to deal with graft.

The resolution adopted by the two Houses strikes a balance between the competing considerations of heeding the clamour for strong anti-corruption measures in the wake of a series of



scams and the political class's determination to not allow Parliament's authority on law-making to be undermined. Even as it conceded the Anna group's demands, the resolution also made it plain that the procedure of the scrutiny of the law by the Standing Committee would not be scuppered.

The resolution was the result of a remarkable display of give-and-take by all the protagonists. The government, which had staunchly resisted the civil society group's efforts to dictate the shape of the Lokpal law, did not allow ego to come in the way as it changed tack. The PM, who said he was ready to walk the extra mile, did so at a crucial time when he overruled the nay-sayers to give his nod to a conciliatory resolution.

This was the second time in the week that the PM had taken charge of the government's efforts, even if belated, to defuse the confrontation. On Wednesday, he had turned down the effort of his colleagues to re-open a resolution that he had worked out with the Opposition after an all-party meeting.

The Opposition also matched the government's conciliatory attitude. The speech of Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, was bereft of partisan considerations, and set the stage for non-acrimonious debate. In fact, at one point in Jaitley's speech, finance minister Pranab Mukherjee asked the BJP leader to explain a finer legal point. Later, Jaitley along with L K Advani and Sushma Swaraj helped craft the resolution that passed muster with the

civil society activists.

Team Anna, too, did not lag behind. The players who had been frequently accused of taking maximalist positions, chose to settle for a solution that did not quite meet their expectations. Prashant Bhushan, a dogged warrior in the court and outside, acknowledged that they would have preferred an iron-clad commitment. However, he expressed the hope that Parliament, having recognized the depth of anti-corruption feelings, would not resile on its commitment.

There are a thousand things wrong with our country. But every once in a while, something or someone comes along and restores, in some measure, our faith in the future. Even those who have had reservations about Anna Hazare's form of protest — and there are many honest, intelligent and committed people among them — cannot discount the incredible impact he has had on Indian polity and society. He has tapped into a nation's rising frustration and anger against corruption of the most scandalous proportions, and channeled it into a mass movement that has shaken the government to its foundation, and placed the entire political class on notice. Will the Lokpal bill be a panacea for all of India's problems? As the Prime Minister has said on more than one occasion, there is no magic wand. But that cannot be a reason for us to do nothing. Anna Hazare has lit a fire. It's for every one of us to keep the flame of hope alive.

Opinion from Indian Press..

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT IS BIGGER, SAYS HAZARE

After an epic fast of 288 hours, Anna Hazare finally ended it on August 28 before thousands of cheering supporters at Ramlila Maidan.

The 74-year-old Gandhian accepted a glass of tender coconut water mixed with honey from a Dalit and a Muslim girl – Simran and Ikrah – at 10:20 am on the dais at the Ramlila Ground ending over 288 hours of fast that began on August 16.

After a brief address, Hazare was driven straight to Medanta Medicity run by eminent cardiologist Dr Naresh Trehan who was attending to him along with his team during his entire period of fast. Hazare will stay in the hospital for two-three days.

"I have only suspended my agitation. I will not rest until all the changes that I look to are achieved," he said to a thunderous applause from thousands of his supporters waving tricolour and shouting slogans like 'Anna Hazare Zindabad'.

Flanked by his team members, including Shanti Bhushan, Prashant Bhushan, Arvind Kejriwal, Kiran Bedi and Manish Sisodia, Hazare said what has been achieved in Parliament yesterday is a victory of the people of India, democracy and those assembled in Ramlila Ground.

Maintaining that People's Parliament is bigger than "Parliament in Delhi", Hazare said that is why the Parliament had to listen to people's Parliament.

"This movement has created a faith that the country can be rid of corruption and we can go ahead with implementing laws and the Constitution made by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar," he said.

Referring to Parliament's decision to refer three of his demands - Citizen's charter, inclusion of lower bureaucracy and creation of Lokayuktas through Lokpal bill - for Standing Committee's consideration, he said, the country can be proud of this moment. Thirteen days of agitation has yielded fruits, he said.

Outlining his future agenda, Hazare chose reforms in election and education systems and working for the betterment of farmers and labourers.

He said his fight would now be for Right to Recall and Right to Reject. While Right to Recall would be for those elected, the Right to Reject will be a column in the ballot paper which would ensure the voter has a right to say that he does not like the listed candidates.

"We have to reform electoral system. (we need) Right to Reject. You should be able to reject your candidate in the ballot paper. We have to do that.

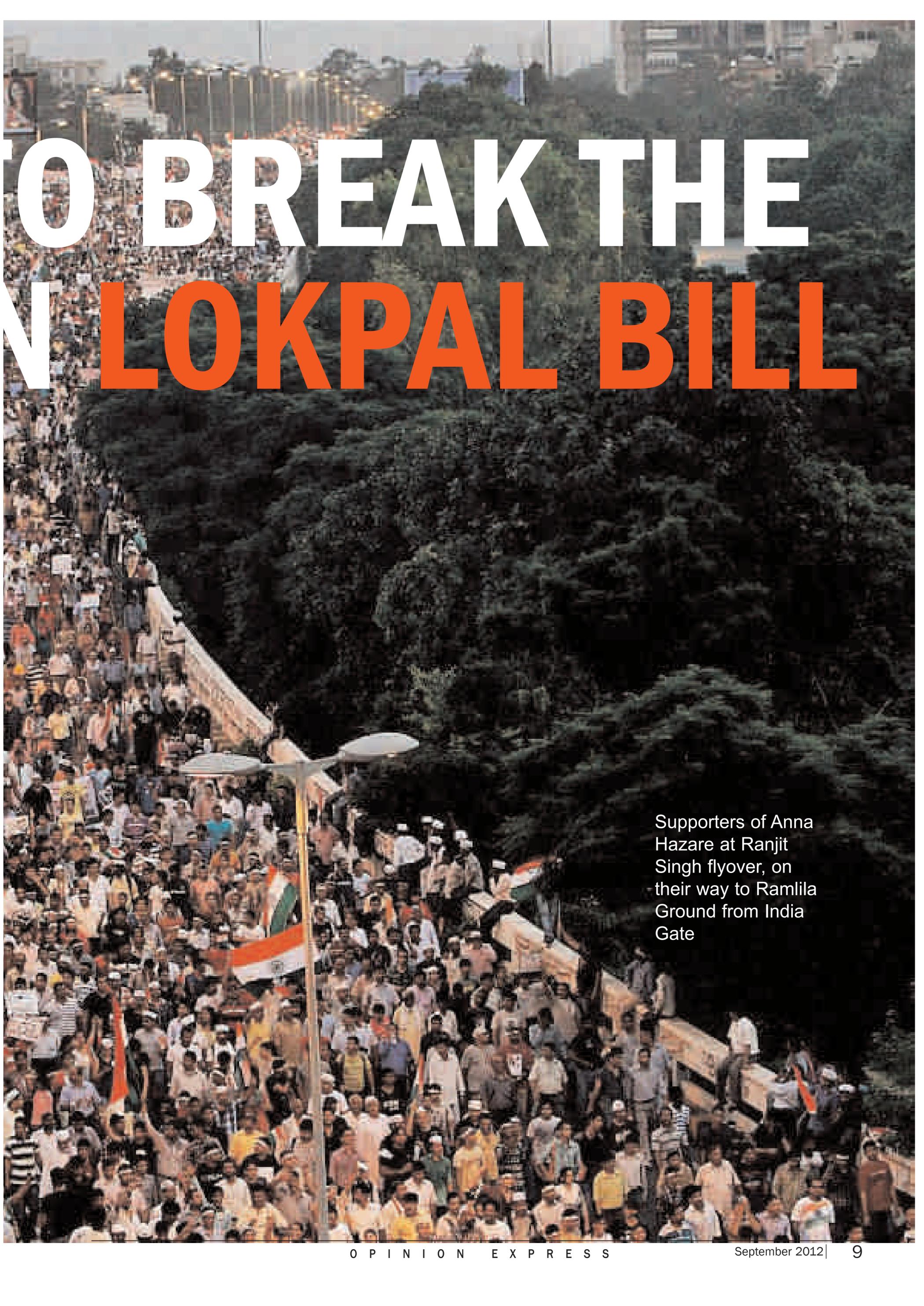
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A PROPOSAL THAT STALEMATE ON

● BR Lall

The whole debate and unrest started with the realisation that the government was not allowing various agencies under its control to investigate people at high places and that for this reason they were freely looting and bleeding the economy of the country resulting into big scams that could never be brought to the book. As such, the focal issue has been to free the investigating agencies from the control of the executive both administrative and political. However, the people believe that the government is not prepared for autonomy for the investigating agencies that the Jan Lok Pal bill basically asks for despite demonstration of such overwhelming public sentiment that became necessary in view of the brazen insensitivity of the successive government for decades in this context that left the people with no alternative but to come on the streets. It has led to the stalemate that has to be resolved immediately so that Anna can break his fast. At the same time the legislation has to be well thought of and the legislative procedures will also take some time. Anna is rightly bent on not breaking fast as there is distrust for the reasons that are understandable. Government needs to guarantee certain principles that the fresh bill will take care and the Anna team or the civil society will have to agree to removal of the provisions that have come to be identified as Draconian.



TO BREAK THE N LOKPAL BILL

Supporters of Anna Hazare at Ranjit Singh flyover, on their way to Ramlila Ground from India Gate

The following principles have to be laid down, taken care of and the same will also determine the directions and contents of the Bill.

1. All the agencies dealing with corruption or economic offences have to be absolutely free from the control of the executive / govt. Once taken out of the control of the govt. they SHALL NOT be placed in the hands of any single person or any group of nominated or appointed persons. The following principles could be adopted:

a) All such should be multi member agencies having a membership of 7 to 11. These should be thrown up by the system automatically with a detailed check on their integrity and antecedents. The undesirables should be eliminated by a Committee headed by the Vice President, with Prime Minister and the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as members. The remaining should be put to referendum / vote and should be appointed only after such public approval. As people are quite aware there is no need for campaigning. Only the particulars of everyone should be put on print and electronic media.

b) Their pay and all other expenditure should be charged to the consolidated fund of India.

2. There should be no distinction on the basis of the rank. Peon to PM are all public servants and should be treated as equal. A corrupt person is basically a criminal and law makes no distinction between a corrupt from Class IV or

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Anna Hazare meditates at Rajghat

TEN things to know about Anna Hazare & The Jan Lok Pal Bill.. !

1. Who is Anna Hazare?

An ex-army man (ASC MT).

Took Part in 1965 Indo-Pak War, he survived through an attack by enemy while others with him were killed.

2. What's so special about him?

He built a village Ralegaon Siddhi in Ahamad Nagar district, Maharashtra

3. So what?

This village is a self-sustained model village. Energy is produced in the village itself from solar power, biofuel and wind mills.

In 1975, it used to be a poverty clad village. Now it is one of the richest village in India. It has become a model for self-sustained, eco-friendly & harmonic village.

4. Ok,...?

This humble soul, Anna Hazare was awarded Padma Bhushan and is a known figure for his social activities.

5. Really, what is he fighting for?

He is supporting a cause, the amendment of a law to curb corruption in India.

6. How that can be possible?

He is advocating for a Bill, The Jan Lokpal Bill (The Citizen Ombudsman Bill), that will form an autonomous authority who will make politicians (ministers), bureaucrats (IAS/IPS) accountable for their deeds.

8. It's an entirely new thing right..?

In 1972, the bill was proposed by then Law minister Mr. Shanti Bhushan. Since then it has been neglected by the politicians and some are trying to change the bill to suit their theft (corruption).

7. Oh.. He is going on a hunger strike for that whole thing of passing a Bill ! How can that be possible in such a short span of time?

The first thing he is asking for is: the government should come forward and announce that the bill is going to be passed.

Next, they make a joint committee to DRAFT the JAN LOKPAL BILL. 50% government participation and 50% public participation. Because you cant trust the government entirely for making such a bill which does not suit them.

8. Fine, What will happen when this bill is passed?

A LokPal will be appointed at the centre. He will have an autonomous charge, say like the Election Commission of India. In each and every state, Lokayukta will be appointed. The job is to bring all alleged party to trial in case of corruptions within 1 year. Within 2 years, the guilty will be punished. Not like, Bofors scam or Bhopal Gas Tragedy case, that has been going for last 25 years without any result.



9. Is he alone? Who else is there in the fight with Anna Hazare?

Baba Ramdev, Ex. IPS Kiran Bedi, Social Activist Swami Agnivesh, RTI activist Arvind Kejriwal, Justice Santosh Hegde, Shanti Bhushan and many more. Prominent personalities like Aamir Khan is supporting his cause.

10. Ok, got it. What can I do?

At least we can spread the message.

How?

Putting status message, links, video, changing profile pics.

At least we can support Anna Hazare and the cause for uprooting corruption from India.

At least we can hope that his Hunger Strike does not go in vain.

At least we can pray for his good health.

..... HATS OFF TO YOU DEAR ANNA.... YOU ARE THE TRUE MASSIHA OF POOR MILLIONS - AAM ADMI ... ENOUGH HAS BEEN ENOUGH — INDIA FOR CORRUTION FREE SOCIETY.

This Insensitive Govt has to Give In to the Wishes of the people.





Judiciary need not be brought under the Lok Pal . The case of judiciary is different in that the judiciary in a democracy is the final adjudicator and the interpreter of laws and the constitution. As such they need not be under the watch of the Lokpal. But at the same time they have to be fully accountable to a different mechanism, the National Judicial Commission that should be constituted simultaneously with the Lokpal and decisions of this commission should be final and non-appealable in any court.

from the top. This follows:

a) PM has to be included under the Lok Pal or whatever is the institution so created.

b) There cannot be any distinction between Joint Secretary upwards or downwards and every boy has to be the subject of the same institution for similar offence.

c) No permission u/s 26 of CVC Act to investigate or prosecution sanction under section 19 or any other law be required and both these provisions need be repealed.

3. The division has to be on functional basis and various organisations have to take charge of that function.

4. Judiciary need not be brought under the Lok Pal . The case of judiciary is different in that the judiciary in a democracy is the final adjudicator and the interpreter of laws and the constitution. As such they need not be under the watch of the Lokpal. But at the same time they have to be fully accountable to a different mechanism, the National Judicial Commission that should be constituted simultaneously with the Lokpal and decisions of this commission should be final and non-appealable in any court.

5. There is principle of separation of powers whereas in the Jan Lok Pal

There is principle of separation of powers whereas in the Jan Lok Pal bill as proposed, the power of investigation, prosecution, vigilance, administration as also the punishment (to some extent) have been vested in the proposed Lok Pal .

bill as proposed, the power of investigation, prosecution, vigilance, administration as also the punishment (to some extent) have been vested in the proposed Lok Pal . The principle laid down under our Constitution is separation of powers, whereas, at present most of these powers are combined in the governments as they control the enquiry, the registration, the investigation, the prosecution as also the withdrawal. It is these powers that have made and perpetuated the government to be corrupt and uncontrollable. There appears to be merit in the contention that the Jan Lok Pal bill as proposed will turn the Lok Pal into a monster, which will not be in the interest of the country.

6. Anti-corruption and Economic offences wings (EOW) of the CBI should not be put under different agencies as proposed by the Jan-lok-pal bill as these deal with the two aspects of the same phenomenon and it is corruption that makes economic offences possible. The two can be investigated side by side. It is also true for the corporate crimes as most





Following course of action is recommended:

- Government should give such an undertaking to the above effect and the Civil society should accept the same.
- A three member committee be constituted with one member each to be nominated by the government and the Anna taking care that no member of the existing negotiating team from either side is recommended. The third member who will also be the chairman would be recommended by the Supreme Court who could be a sitting judge or a retired Judge or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- The three will consider all the bills submitted so far and also further submissions and draw up the structure of such agencies as it may deem fit as also the proposed Acts. Only these will be introduced in the parliament without reference to any house committee and will be debated in Parliament.
- That the committee will not take more than 4 weeks and a special session of the Parliament be called to consider and pass the bill in October sometime.
- Once government signs the principles as laid down in part one above and constitutes the committee in next day or so, Anna should break his fast so that the committee can work in conducive atmosphere.

The CBI, joined by the Enforcement directorate should look after all the investigations and let Lok Pal look after the administrative vigilance that at present is looked after by the CVC. The CVC is a very weak institution at present.

of them are committed in connivance with the government departments who on an average get 5% and the remaining goes into the part of economic offences. As such separating EOW from Anti-corruption would cause havoc and be counterproductive. If anything the enforcement directorate which also deals with economic offences should be made to join the above two wings.

7. The CBI, joined by the Enforcement directorate should look after all the investigations and let Lok Pal look after the administrative vigilance that at present is looked after by the CVC. The CVC is a very weak institution at present. The replacement by independent Jan Lok Pal is going to strengthen it. The CVO's of PSU's should be placed directly under the Lok Pal. A vigilance that reports to the Chief Executive of the PSU is no vigilance. Besides, administrative vigilance including supervision over PSU's, the Lok Pal could create an elaborate machinery for grievance redressal and all the investigation agencies shall have to register the cases and investigate if referred by the Lok Pal.

8. Laws relating to Corruption and Black Economy need be more stringent. Santhanam Committee in 1964 had recommended for doing so but nothing has been done. The punishment under Prevention of Corruption act should be graded and that should go on increasing with the quantum of sleaze involved extending upto life imprisonment.

9. The law need not be inclined towards the accused person and rather should protect the whistle blower.

10. The whole of money involved in corruption or in economic offences should be recovered from him or his family members as the fruit of corruption are shared and enjoy by the family as a whole.

When we are so imperfect, how can we expect the system to be perfect?

● **Dr Anurupa Roy**

With many floating issues in the tsunami of corruption, distinguishing shades of homo sapiens into grey and white. If we dare see the image of our soul first, where our own actions are the source of this grey shade and mentality as the epicenter of this jerk? Can we prevent such genes to pass onto the next generation before blaming the system that is made of us, for us and by us?

I was being laughed upon a poor, average looking orphan everywhere, whose parents could only teach love. Today talking my daughter in law, I saw the same love in her eyes, to celebrate small moments of happiness together & to gift a lenitive in lugubrious state, unlike this generation's concept, where it is a burden and matter of paucity! The fate of a poor orphan is hapless in this outwardly appearance dominated society, having a predilection for those with pulchritude or for children of a mandarin, riding to school on an inherited Porsche, if not, at least a Suzuki.

Where people used to change their bags hebdomadally, I had no gossips from recent cosmopolitan or mills and boons to attract friends!! And realized the importance hidden in the currency the day, I landed in a clinic with severe illness and no money and was refused treatment by the receptionist. Teary eyes of a 6-yr innocent failed to convince and went unattended. Educated brains with a secretary at front desk to prevent anyone inside, at any cost fails see how inhuman we to call it- Professionalism. Why ethics is decorated with gaucheness and is gov-

erned by the amount of money a sycophant owns? The way we welcome a fame laden person, can we lionize a poor gate crashing in need, the same way?

I was never noticed for extra-curricular activities, since I had no guardian to talk sweet to the authorities, since, nepotism was always there. I grew up with a hope of encouragement to boost my confidence, & went to a medical college for graduation, thanks to entrance and minimal fees still prevailing at reputed government colleges but was discouraged the day of my first dissection aborting my interest at fetal stage! How true the adage by William Arthur Ward is - "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." But, the struggle for getting marks using impression at practical exams seems omnipresent. Then my loneliness was blessed with a feel of love until I realized that its not a mere profundity of feelings and understanding, rather, a reaction that needs a catalyst of beauty to give birth to a relation as product and listened to -'go and look yourself in the mirror before dreaming of me!" I was in a state of aphasia not for slapping self respect with my dreams, but for being wrong in identifying a person. Is it cardinal to behave rude and hurt to make one understand our views? But until we experience the same, we don't understand how miserable one can feel when affronted. I incarcerated my feelings and choked it to death, like how savagely female infanticide is still practiced when sex discrimination is a crime.

So, when we are imperfect, how can we expect the system to be perfect?

Overseas Indians supports Anna battle against corruption

WASHINGTON: A group of Indian-Americans has urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to meet the demands of social activist Anna Hazare by himself tabling the Jan Lokpal Bill in the Parliament.

"We hope you will take the call and retain the faith in parliament by yourself going ahead with tabling the Janlokpal bill to end the deadlock. Whatever decisions you make today will be remembered in our history for generations to come," said a petition submitted to him at the Indian embassy here.

Holding their protest in support of Hazare for the sixth consecutive day, the group, including students from uni-

versities in and around Washington said corruption is the greatest hurdle in the progress of India.

"Since decades we have seen scandals after scandals, but no politician was ever punished or held accountable," they said, "Anti-corruption activist Shri Anna Hazare has entered sixth day of his 'anshan' and there is still a deadlock between the government and the civil society members. There have been no positive developments in the past few days."

"We along with Anna are quite clear what we want, but the government is still confused. Strong 'political will' to fight corruption is the need of the hour. Government must come clean on

its intentions and at least table the Jan Lokpal bill in the parliament. We do have faith in our parliamentary system and are proud of our vibrant democracy, so what's the harm in at least tabling the bill? What's there in it for the government to lose?" the petition said.

"This movement has moved beyond Anna and Jan Lokpal Bill. Middle class is rallying there for a cause which has been bothering them for decades. By placing a toothless bill, government 'intent' is exposed.

For days to come, we have to keep our finger crossed as a new history is in making!" said Vibhash Jha, a PhD student at the University of Maryland.



NRI hold slogans during a protest in support of Hazare's fight against corruption

UPA's credibility is now history

● Swapan Dasgupta

For the past few days and in a desperate attempt to counter the middle-class euphoria over Anna Hazare, a beleaguered Congress has been cashing many of the IOUs it has accumulated over the past seven years.

NAC member Harsh Mander, the unchallenged King of sanctimoniousness and the great proponent of communal budgeting of state resources, has denounced Anna's crusade as "a Right-leaning, fascist campaign to push for an extremely regressive legislation". Aruna Roy, another NAC member and the Queen Bee of the NGO movement, has proffered her own version of outsourced legislation - one that apparently travels the middle path between the official Lokpal Bill and Anna's Jan Lokpal Bill. To cap it all, former Infosys chief and the present head of the UID scheme (with the status of a Cabinet Minister) has made TV appearances expressing his unhappiness with the "uni-dimensional" approach of Team Anna and the need for a "much more strategic, holistic" approach.

Nilekani's critique of the Anna movement can't be dismissed lightly. He issued a testimonial to Indian parliamentary democracy and particularly the functioning of parliamentary committees. At the same time, he mocked the simplistic bantering that has characterised Team Anna: "Which Kool-Aid are they drinking?" Kool-Aid, I was informed by Wikipedia, is a "brand of flavoured drinks owned by Kraft Foods." Nilekani could, perhaps, have been less global with his choice of metaphors to state his astonishment with Team Anna's certitudes. Yet, if Twitter is any indication, he was berated for allowing himself to become a "mouthpiece" for the Government. A few months ago, India's middle-class twitterati would have treated every word and sentence he uttered as Gospel truth. Today, he is being viewed as part of the rotten elite that is



MISSING IN ACTION: Sonia Gandhi



Bhojpuri actor Manoj Tiwari is demonstrating against corruption in support of Anna Hazare at Bihar's capital Patna

beholden to the Government. It wasn't what he said that was questioned but why he chose to go public now.

In the coming days, and irrespective of whether the Anna campaign turns more strident or begins wilting, the Government bid to create a less excitable public mood will intensify. From August 16 to the installation of Anna in Ram Lila Maidan three days later, the entire focus was on the Government's ill-conceived preventive detention, the assault on the Government in Parliament and its unconditional surrender to Team Anna. The Government stood discredited, with a large omelette on its face and its authority in shreds. Most important, for three days the Government successfully turned a populist, anti-corruption movement into an anti-Congress movement. In just three days, the Congress frittered away the goodwill of Middle India.

Yet, no Government capitulates so easily. Manish Tewari's assault on the integrity of Anna Hazare didn't click and neither did Rashid Alvi's comic attempt to locate an American hand behind the movement. At the same time, the abrupt elevation of Anna into

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a "hero" and "hero of heroes" by Sanjay Nirupam and Harish Rawat has looked patently disingenuous, coming as it did with the news that the Government actually wanted to 'deport' Anna back to his village in Maharashtra on August 16. The Congress (and, in fact, most political parties) often forget that people aren't fools and will believe whatever drivel is served to them. It is easier to persuade courtiers to forgive past sins and come to the aid of the party than to regain lost public goodwill instantly.

I can say with near certainty that the next few weeks will see reports of weariness with street protests, exasperation with unreasonable politics, the unresponsiveness of minorities and Dalits to middle-class protests and, finally, the silent majority's wish that the Government gets on with the job of governing. Apart from the difficulties of maintaining sustained interest in one story, the media too is susceptible to official cajoling and arm-twisting. This matters in times of economic difficulties.

On August 20, for example, Government departments issued 69 advertisements spread over 41 pages

the total expenditure for this occasion last year was between Rs 60 crore and 70 crore. And this was a commemoration that excluded the electronic media. When that is brought into the purview of campaigns like Bharat Nirman and advertisements made by agencies with close ties to daughters-in-law and nephews of Ministers, the sums involved can be mind boggling.

in 12 daily English newspapers to commemorate Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary. It is said that the total expenditure for this occasion last year was between Rs 60 crore and 70 crore. And this was a commemoration that excluded the electronic media. When that is brought into the purview of campaigns like Bharat Nirman and advertisements made by agencies with close ties to daughters-in-law and nephews of Ministers, the sums involved can be mind boggling. In short, it doesn't make business sense for the media to persist with the shrill anti-Government campaign of the past week. This isn't a matter of politics; it's prudent business.

In the coming days, the stage will be set for Team Anna to undertake suicide missions and become increasingly reckless. Actually, that is not asking for too much. The sight of dotting crowds spontaneously assembled, 24x7 news coverage and a belief in their own manifest destiny can turn many heads. Kiran Bedi's "India is Anna" remark, Prashant Bhushan's sneering espousal of plebiscitary democracy that is calculated to generate anarchy, Swami Agnivesh's slipperiness and Anna's own innocent understanding of public life will come under sustained gaze. The hyenas are waiting for them to slip up, and slip up they will. The Anna movement may well falter, but will it restore the Government's credibility? That, unfortunately, is history. Unless a political miracle takes place, India seems set for a long innings of lame-duck governance. Anna may not get to taste success, but he has begun the halal killing of this Government.





Protesters hold cutouts of anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare and shout slogans during a protest in support of Hazare's fight against corruption in Ahmadabad

DR SINGH

INTEGRITY- AN ASSET OR A LIABILITY TO INDIA?

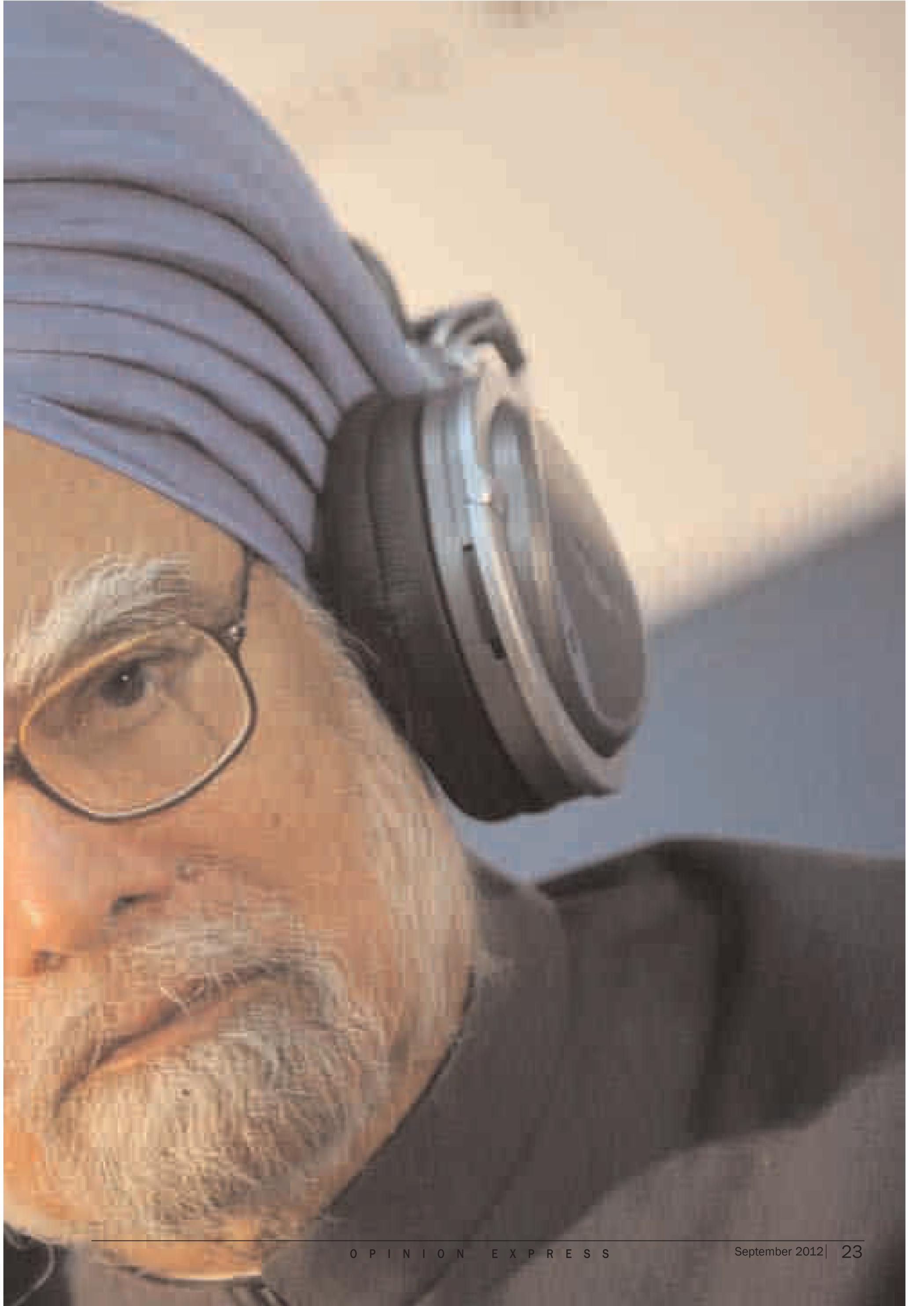
● A Surya Prakash

It is astounding that a Prime Minister who presides over limitless corruption in the Government he heads should be referred to as a man of integrity!

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, we are often reminded, is a great economist and a man of integrity. Despite mounting allegations of corruption and the general opinion that he heads the most corrupt Government this country has seen since independence, these eulogies have sustained him in office and he has, until now, not faced much of a threat from within the Congress or outside.

Is the Prime Minister really worthy of all the encomiums that are showered on him by his admirers and those who eke out a living working for the Government he heads? Let us examine some of the broad conclusions drawn by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India in his report on the Commonwealth Games held in Delhi last October and see whether Mr Singh's so-called personal integrity or his understanding of economics has helped us one bit as a nation.

Delhi won the bid to host CWG-2010 in November 2003. The Union Government and all other entities, therefore, had seven years to build the infrastructure and host the games and Mr Singh, as Prime Minister, had the key responsibility to supervise the preparations from May 2004. He never got down





Supporters of Anna Hazare at Indore

to constituting an apex body at the Government level to supervise the games. Second, the initial years were marked by procrastination. Every entity responsible for the games thought that it had a lot of time on its hands.

The CAG fired the first warning shot in July 2009, 15 months before the games, and told the Union Government that there was need "to rethink the governance model for the games project..." The auditors warned that there could be no further slip-pages and delays if the games were to be held as scheduled. But, as the nation has belatedly realised, Mr Singh did not pay heed to the CAG's warning.

The CAG has now presented a comprehensive audit of the Commonwealth Games from May 2003 to December 2010. This report constitutes a stinging indictment of the Prime Minister. Just two examples are enough to show how responsible

Mr Singh was while dealing with this issue. In May 2003, the bid document said the Organising Committee of the games would be a Government-owned registered society with the

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chairman of the board being a Government appointee.

However, when the OC was finally set up in February 2005, it was a non-Government registered society with Suresh Kalmadi, then president of the Indian Olympic Association, as the

chairman. Shockingly, the CAG says Kalmadi was appointed as OC chairman on the basis of a recommendation from Mr Manmohan Singh's office. The Prime Minister's Office overruled the objections of the then Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Sunil Dutt, while promoting Kalmadi. This decision of Mr Singh converted the OC into a body outside Government control. Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, who was the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports in 2007, and Mr SK Arora, the Secretary in the Department, also highlighted the lack of Government control over the OC, but the Prime Minister did not listen to them either.

When thousands of crores of public money was being spent, why did not Mr Singh ensure that the games projects were properly monitored and the OC was in Government's control? Why and at whose behest did he overrule two Ministers for Youth Affairs



In the absence of a single point of authority and accountability and the lack of a clear governance structure, there was all-round chaos. Finally, some steps were taken in August 2010 but by then scandalous stories and photographs of filthy toilets, garbage heaps and water-logging in the Games Village were hitting the headlines across the world, making India a laughing stock. So, should we not hold Mr Singh, the man at the helm, accountable?

would be revenue neutral, meaning that the Government would recover all that it spent on the games. However, the auditors found that this claim of revenue neutrality was never supported by robust revenue projections. For example in March 2007 the OC claimed that the revenue from the games would be Rs 900 crore, but by July 2008, it said the games would generate a revenue of Rs 1,780 crore - that is double of what it had projected a year earlier.

This was done by inflating the projections for sponsorship revenue and donations because the OC wanted more money from the Government. However, since the Prime Minister had over-ruled the idea of Government control over the OC, the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports could not challenge the OC's claims. Eventually when the games got over, the auditors found that after deducting revenue generating costs all that the OC had earned by way of revenue was a paltry Rs 173.96 crore, which was less than 10 per cent of the Rs 1,780 crore it said it would earn.

Does this not amount to criminal misrepresentation? Should not the Prime Minister, who allowed Kalmadi to hoodwink everybody on this score, be held responsible? When such questions are raised, we are told the Prime Minister is a great economist and his personal integrity is above reproach!

and Sports and allow a private entity to gobble up public funds? These questions have been in the public mind since the CAG report was tabled in Parliament, but the Prime Minister seems to be on a maun vrat.

In the absence of a single point of authority and accountability and the lack of a clear governance structure, there was all-round chaos. Finally, some steps were taken in August 2010 but by then scandalous stories and photographs of filthy toilets, garbage heaps and water-logging in the Games Village were hitting the headlines across the world, making India a laughing stock. So, should we not hold Mr Singh, the man at the helm, accountable? Yet, there are people in this country who believe that Mr Singh should not be called to account. Why? Because he is great economist and his personal integrity cannot be questioned.

The second example relates to

money matters, but if you presume that the economist in Mr Singh will protect our national interest, you could be terribly wrong. Generally speaking, even run-of-the-mill economists are good with figures, but just see the kind of leadership Mr Singh gave us when the CWG work was on. The CAG has said that the Union Government did not have "a clear and realistic assessment" of the estimated cost of hosting the games. The Indian Olympic Association estimated an all-inclusive cost of Rs 1,200 crore, but the overall cost of CWG 2010 for the Union Government, the Delhi Government and other agencies was Rs 18,532 crore! This means the cost of CWG spiralled to 15 times the original cost.

On the other hand, let us see what became of the revenue the country was supposed to earn from the games. The OC consistently claimed that the cost of hosting the CWG

A Dummy's Guide to tax havens and black money

● R Vaidyanathan

On Friday, the Union government sought a review of the Supreme Court's order constituting a Special Investigative Team (SIT) to probe the issue of black money stashed abroad. The government believes this is judicial over-reach, but it forgets that the courts stepped in because of executive "under-reach." It is one thing to object to a Supreme Court-appointed SIT, quite another to be SITting on your hands doing nothing.

But stashing money abroad is not just about the government not earning its share of tax revenues. It is actually a vote of no-confidence in the country and its people. Hence, it is financial skullduggery. Here's the second part of our Dummy's Guide to Tax Havens and Black Money in which we explain how black money is generated and spirited away. The first part was published by First post on 3 June.

What is black money and how is it generated?

It's not the colour of the currency, for sure. Income generated by illegal means and on which no tax is paid is called black money. Corruption is one of the major causes. All corrupt acts

Domestic corruption can be retail or wholesale. The retail one is what hurts most of us. The policeman who collects a bribe when you jump a red signal, the electricity board engineer who wants speed money to fix your meter, or the RTO official who wants a payment to issue a driving licence - such situations can be multiplied a million times.

generate black money since the receiver does not want to show it as income to the tax authorities. This is why the finance ministry's chief economic advisor, Kaushik Basu, even suggested legalizing small-time bribes since it can at least be taxed.

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payment to issue a driving licence - such situations can be multiplied a million times.

We can also call this womb-to-tomb bribery, from birth certificate to death certificate. This retail corruption is what we are up against on a day-to-day basis. And this generates huge amounts of black money, mostly in the hands of thousands of government employees. This is what is not felt in developed countries. In the US or Europe, retail corruption that affects the common man is rare.

Corruption generates black money but black money is generated even

without corruption. For instance, if you do not collect the bill for your next petrol purchase you have generated black money.

Then there is wholesale corruption, which is generated through the award of road/project contracts (as in Commonwealth Games) or the issue of licences or allotment of scarce resources like spectrum (as in 2G scam). Wholesale corruption also happens in government purchases - whether it is medicine in hospitals or books in schools or aircraft for Air India or Bofors guns or coffins for defense. Corruption happens even in

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the private sector, but since the losses are borne by promoters and shareholders, we should not bother about that now.

Why should I bother about wholesale corruption?

Wholesale corruption does not affect us directly, but it does impact us indirectly. When A Raja allegedly made money by under pricing spectrum and allotting it to specific parties, telecom companies had to recoup the costs from somewhere - it could be through higher mobile bills or poorer quality service, or both. Also, the government loses revenue, which means less money to spend on more worthwhile projects like subsidizing the poor.

It is important to note that corruption generates black money but black money is generated even without corruption. For instance, if you do not collect the bill for your next petrol purchase you have generated black money. If you visit your doctor and pay him his fees without a bill, the doctor may not pay his taxes.

So the equation is corruption generates or implies black money but black money does not imply corruption.

Where is this black money kept?

Unlike what is shown in Bollywood films, black money is not kept in cupboards or suitcases - though some if it may well be kept there. Black money is usually kept in circulation by using it to finance informal trade and commerce - usually at a higher interest rate than what banks charge.





For instance, we estimate that only 30 percent of retail trade financing is done by banking institutions. The remaining money comes from moneylenders - a good portion of it from black money. Actually, domestic black money is a hidden reserve and it may also be beneficial in some ways as it finances economic activities. Also, black money circulates faster than white money, which slows down as it passes through the banking and taxation loop.

But black money distorts resource allocation since people with huge amounts of it will use it to build spas at home or buy Italian marble for the verandah or gold-plated bathroom fittings. The economy thus tries to cater to this profitable demand instead of what the bulk of the people need.

Moreover, black money is also stored in real estate, which is one reason why we are finding everything unaffordable in the property market.

If black money is useful here,

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how did it land up in tax havens abroad?

There are several reasons for keeping wealth abroad clandestinely. They can be broadly categorized as vegetarian and non-vegetarian reasons/purposes. The illegal wealth itself can be classified as veg or non-

veg. The veg reasons for keeping wealth abroad include tax evasion, and keeping some dollars abroad for meeting expenses when you travel abroad or for your child's education or daughter's honeymoon.

The non-veg money is accumulated for terror financing or gun running or drug money or flesh trade. (Disclosure: I am a vegetarian and so I am categorizing these purposes in this fashion.) The former is illegal but less harmful compared to the latter. The government needs to approach the issue in different ways in tackling these two segments of black money. We will elaborate it later. Let us first look at the veg segment first, and how it emerged.

Why did so much black money get generated?

In the sixties and seventies, tax rates used to be very high in India. At the margin it was more than 90 percent in many years. This meant that for every Rs 100 earned in the upper

Foreign exchange controls were also so stringent that businessmen found they could not afford to stay in decent hotels when travelling abroad for business. They could not send their sons and daughters to get an Ivy League education. Hence the need to maintain dollars abroad - often in tax havens.

income brackets, more than Rs 90 would go as taxes. Hence rich persons began to accumulate wealth abroad to avoid such "usurious" taxes.

The high levels of taxes were the result of "Nehruvian socialism" which felt that the rich should be soaked to improve the lot of the poor. The latter did not happen, but such policies "improved" the ability of tax officials to extract money as bribes from the rich and encouraged the latter to look out for secretive jurisdictions to store their wealth.

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But it is the second broad category - namely the non-veg - that is insidious and dangerous. It is not only about lost taxes, but also about what kind of nefarious activities it may be financing, including possibly terrorism and gangsterism.

India's restrictions on gold holdings and high customs duties created an entire class of smugglers who



brought in gold illegally from Dubai. There were smugglers not only in gold, but any luxury item that was banned or too expensive to import (including electronic gadgets at one time). This is how Nehruvian economics created crime syndicates which, over time, metamorphosed into financiers of terror, a la Dawood Ibrahim.

How does the money go out of the country?

One of the important mechanisms is called "trade mispricing". When an exporter underinvoices (underprices) his goods, the difference is paid by the importer abroad in a Swiss account, or any tax haven. One can also overinvoice imports. Let's say a US exporter sells us a piece of machinery worth Rs 100 crore for Rs 110 crore. In this case, a higher amount is remitted from India, enabling the exporter to pay us the excess back in a tax haven.

Black money is also generated in defence deals. In the Bofors case, a commission was paid for the deal when the Indian policy was that no commissions could be paid? Who got the money?

Then there are hawala transactions. At the criminal level, you can merely hand over a sackful of rupees, and the courier will deliver dollars somewhere abroad - obviously at an exchange rate that is significantly higher than the official one. But hawala transactions can also be done by the ordinary well-to-do. Let's say you want to finance your father's operation abroad. You can ask your friend in Dubai to bear the cost, in return for paying the equivalent amount in rupees to his sister in Hyderabad. This does not look like a criminal thing to do, but legally it is no different from the illegal hawala deal.

R Vaidyanathan is professor of finance at IIM, Bangalore



GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS, FIXING IT



● Herman Silchan | Canada

Crisis is not restricted to the US dollar but has affected all financial institutions of the world.

Trigger was the downgrade on August 5, 2012, of United States rating from AAA to AA+ by Standard & Poor, (S&P) a private rating agency. The consequence has been that all stock markets in the world recorded massive declines.

The downgrade complemented the turmoil in Europe with the debt problems faced by PIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Greece, Spain). PIGS joined by France and Germany who have their own Euro-dollar problems to cope with.

World Economic History snapshots: impoverishment of the world

India and China accounted for 50% of world GDP for all of the past 2000 years. (Now they account for only 25% of world GDP). The impoverishment was caused by colonial exploitation.

US economy: some history lessons

26.5% decline in GDP (from 1929 to 1933).

Unemployment: 24.9% (1933), >20% (1932-35)

85% fall in stock prices; 47% fall in industrial production; 80% fall in home building (1929-33)

Double-dip recession of 2011

evokes these memories.

Why is US \$ a big deal in global finances?

US \$ dominates currency circulation in world economy.

\$ Forex holdings are held by countries outside USA.

US trade deficits and consequent increased supply of US \$ to the world meant that over 66% of US \$ (1980-2005) are held outside USA. Two-thirds of US \$ (Over \$1 trillion) are in circulation outside USA.

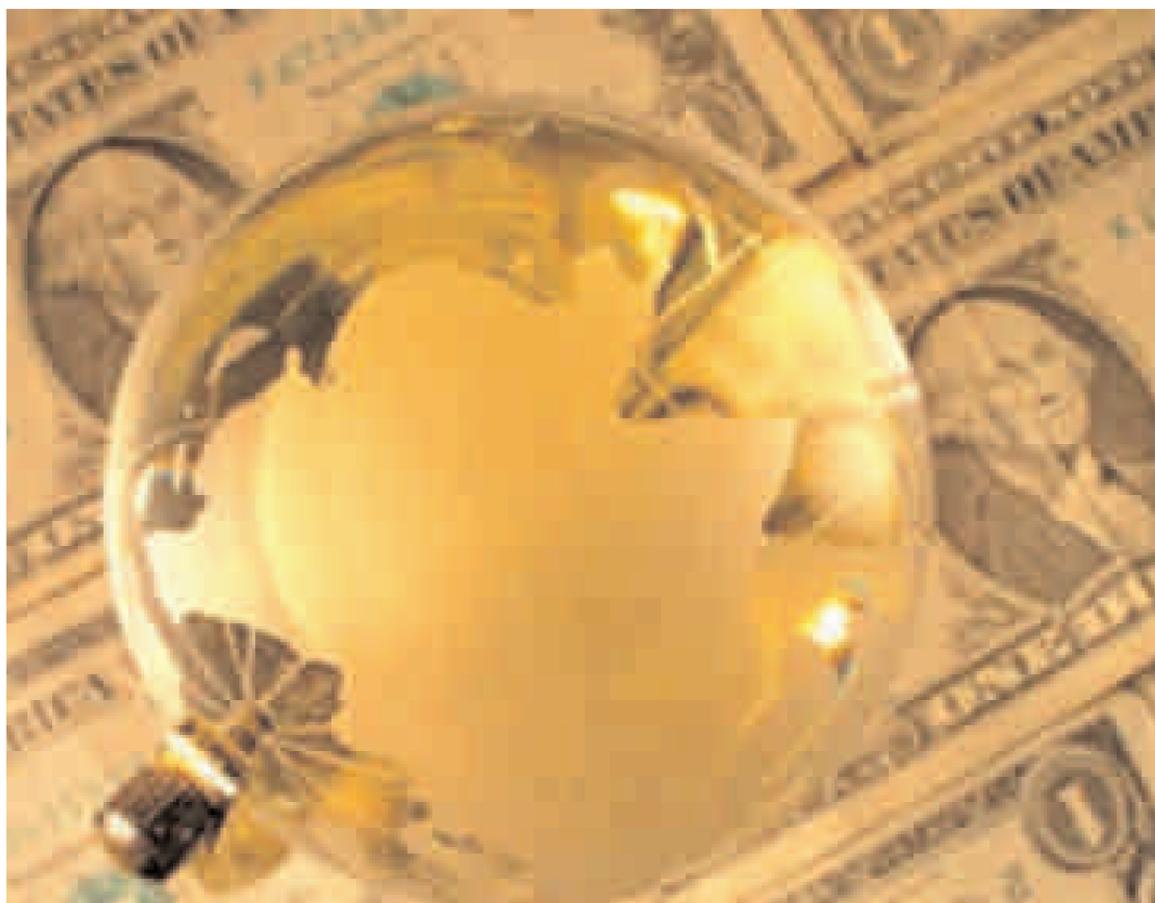
Total Forex business: \$3.98 trillion (US\$ accounts for \$1.69 trillion or 42.5%; Euro accounts for 19.5%).

Causes for dominance of US\$

After the formation of OPEC and Petroleum products cartel, Kissinger ensured that these petro-dollars were stated in US\$ terms and recycled in the world.

Thanks to forex, trade, investment, financial derivatives (puts and calls, credit swaps, participatory notes), petro-dollars, US \$ is the dominant currency.

Total Forex reserves: \$9.7 trillion (i.e. 16.7% of World GDP 58.26 trillion). Of these reserves, 2/3 are in US \$, held and transacted in financial





Keynes wrote in 1919: "If we aim deliberately at the impoverishment of Central Europe, vengeance, I dare predict, will not limp. Nothing can then delay for very long that final war between the forces of Reaction and the despairing convulsions of Revolution, before which the horrors of the late German war will fade into nothing."

markets.

Keynesian economic model

Keynes was instrumental in introducing the current mainstream economic thought, in the wake of the First and Second World Wars.

He wrote two works:

The Economic Consequences of the Peace (1919)

How to Pay for the War: A radical plan for the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1940)

Economic consequences of peace (1919)

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He attacked the post World War I deflation policies with A Tract on Monetary Reform in 1923 - an argument that countries should ensure stability of domestic prices, avoiding deflation even at the cost of allowing their currency to depreciate.

Keynes's predictions of disaster were borne out when the German economy suffered the hyperinflation of 1923, and again by the collapse of the Weimar Republic and the outbreak of World War II. Only a fraction of reparations were ever paid.

How to pay for the war (1940)

At the height of the Great Depression, in 1933, Keynes published *The Means to Prosperity*, which contained specific policy recommendations for tackling unemployment in a global recession, chiefly counter cyclical public spending and contains one of the first mentions of the multiplier effect.

Keynes' *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (1936) argues that demand, not supply, is the key variable governing the overall level of economic activity. Without government intervention to increase expenditure, an economy

can remain trapped in a low employment equilibrium. Keynes advocated activist economic policy by government to stimulate demand in times of high unemployment for example by spending on public works.

One consequence was the US announcement of Marshall Plan

Key argument was that war effort should be largely financed by higher taxation and especially by compulsory saving (essentially workers loaning money to the government), rather than deficit spending, in order to avoid inflation. Marshall Plan finally ended up in the formation of European Community with Euro dollar as their common currency.



How to overcome the present economic mess?

(1) Promote public works, reduce unemployment

US and developed economies of the world should pause and learn lessons from history of the last 20 centuries. Impoverishment of colonies by the colonial loot should be recognized. Developed economies owe reparations to the impoverishment developing world which has come out of colonial dominance. One solution: Just as European Community and Eurodollar were formed, an Indian Ocean Community and Mudra as common currency of IOC should be instituted. This will lead to employment generation in ALL economies of the globe. Law of the Sea now expands territorial waters to 200 nautical miles, opening up new zone for economic exploitation. Projects are ready to link Vladivostok and Bangkok through Trans-Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway - projects which will provide the multiplier effect made popular in economics by Keynes.

(2) Promote savings

Avoid the temptation to print US dollars. Slow down the US \$ money circulation. Institute steps to reduce US and other Developed Countries' Current Account Deficit by increasing their exports of services for public works' financing in Developing countries, for e.g. IOC.

US current account deficit (1976 to 2009): \$8.5 trillion which becomes forex reserves of nations outside USA.

Promote savings in USA and other Developed Countries.

Promote investment of \$ held as cash by corporate.

(3) Ban financial derivatives

Financial instruments such as options, financial derivatives, and participatory notes create a false sense of financial health. They do not provide insurance cover, they only promote the development of excessive greed. To promote greater corporate social responsibility, take lessons from millennia-old Dharma-dhamma institutions which promote social responsibility through sreni dharma (corporate responsibility) (e.g. makamai, a voluntary contribution of a percentage of turnover to social causes).

Are Indian companies missing out on investment and business opportunities?

● **Lars R. K. Talwar Norberg**

With an expanding home market many Indian companies tend to focus on domestic growth and looking to expansion in markets where successful Indian establishments has been made earlier, like UAE, and where quite a few Indian NRI HNI's are strong links to opportunities.

In both US and Europe the markets are slow, to say the least, an FDI from these regions into India have dropped during the last one to one and a half year. The later is because of several factors; the perceived risks related to investing in emerging markets, lower risk investing in known markets and companies, but more interesting and important because there are "better" investment opportunities to be found in Europe and the US. And, from an Indian investors point of view many of these investments can make even more sense.

A company with relatively low valuation, a proven advanced technology being used by world-class customers could in many ways be the perfect acquisition. Or, a brand with a strong position in the local market who has not taken the step into the enormous Indian market due to lack of knowledge, contacts in India or temporarily slim financials.

According to our experience, in Europe, the geographical belt from northern Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Scandinavia are were the most attractive opportunities are. Throwing a glance at Netherlands and the UK might make sense in some cases. In the US there are typically industry specific clusters with different locations depending on industry.

Leveraging a higher margin customer base, moving manufacturing and development to India to further improve margins, bringing the prod-

ucts to the high-end market in India and applying the Indian knowledge of down-scaling the product to match the requirements a cost sensitive volume market in Indian and as a next step go global with a superior product with an attractive price-point is a viable and proven strategy. Indian companies are uniquely positioned to implement such a strategy.

What we have seen though is that many Indian owner/promoters and executives tend to go for the cheap acquisitions, technology transfers of joint ventures - losing strategic and long-term advantage, unnecessarily sharing profits and being held back during implementation by foreign partners looking to their local needs and the past. Also, there is an reluctance by many to do, and pay for, the quality upfront research and evaluation work of available strategic options and acquisition opportunities - an initial investment that typically has an amazing return.

As examples - how many researched the Swedish market for green-technology, renewable energy, agriculture equipment, defense technology, medtech, auto-components or IT? - a region with a history of being at the frontier in clean energy, environment, medicine, vehicle manufacturing, telecom equipment... Who has not heard of ABB, AlfaLaval, Bofors, Gambro, the Nobel price, Volvo, and Ericson. Is it likely to find interesting acquisitions or partners in their supplier base? Where are the clusters of companies, technology and brands related to your industry and business? Why miss out on an opportunity in a life time to leverage 150 years of development in Europe and US and bring it into, to, the future in India?

**Writer is Founder & Chairman of
EXTEND, LLC**

Clever Innovation coming to India

● Kapil Dudakia

Mobile phones have revolutionised communications beyond recognition. Gone are the days when you waited months to get a landline, and then wondered if it would actually work when you eventually got your hands on it! Gone are the days when in order to make a call, you had to line up at an STD and hope that the few Rupees you had would suffice for that important call to a loved one overseas.

Now with mobile phones and a choice of suppliers - India has seen an explosion in the mobile sector such that in 2011 there are now more than 500 million mobile phones users.

The area where calls have hitherto remained relatively expensive is of course when calling someone overseas. More importantly, often these calls are dearer when made from your mobile phone. However, recently the concept of prepaid calling cards has been launched by several providers and this allows, via an access number and a pass code, the ability to make relatively cheaper calls overseas directly from your mobile phone.

So what is so new and clever about this innovation you may ask? Well, OE got in touch with the inventor and patent holder from London and asked some questions about the technology, as well as talking to the person who will lead on this opportunity in India.

Mr Mark Stewart, Owner of 'Speakeasy Communications Ltd' is based in the UK. We asked him:

OE: Mark you seem to have come up with an interesting innovation in mobile communication - how did this idea come to you?

MS: Well the thought of using a Calling Card to make international calls from a Mobile was at best clumsy, but also inconvenient. Having to





dial an access number, scratch off a PIN number and then key the actual phone number you wished to dial meant that you had to remember and dial in some cases as many as 40 digits!

It occurred to me if one could automate this manual task as much as possible - then it would become a great aid to all users. Borne was the idea of our 'Slim SIM' which now con-

tains a piece of special software that determines the numbers being dialled by the user. As soon as an international number is dialled, it automatically diverts the call to our low cost network (prepaid) and there you have it - a successful low cost international call directly from your mobile.

OE: How many countries are already using this technology?

MS: Technically it should work in all countries. At present we are already active in 12 countries including the UK, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Ireland, Holland, Switzerland, and Austria. In addition we are testing and at a pre-launch stage in Cyprus, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and China.

Our Speakeasy Mobile Chip is compliant with the international SIM standard ISO 7816 so it will work with any 2.5G or 3G networks, and indeed any GSM or 3G mobile handsets including all types of Smart phones.

OE: What are the key benefits to the user?

MS: Our customers keep their existing Mobile number and provider - Yes that is right, it means you do not need to change anything. You just dial the number in the normal way or from the 'Contacts' stored on your Mobile. All international calls are carried by the Speakeasy network at lower cost. Users also have access to their online account via our dedicated website where they can check the current call rates, their usage and also 'Top Up' as and when necessary. We have also ensured that customers can Top Up by using scratch cards if that is their preference.

OE: Do you find that some mobile operators don't quite like what you are doing?

MS: We are offering a clever and robust technology that is totally legal and technically works like a calling card, but acts like a normal call. It automates the process of dialling an access number followed by the pass code which traditionally has been a source of many complaints. Generally users end up having to dial some 30 +

numbers in order to make an international call - in our system, they just dial their international number as normal, and our 'Slim SIM' takes over and does all the hard work.

We are therefore only offering an alternative to that which is already available in the market, but much easier to use and manage. If the mobile operators have no issues with existing methods, surely they can't object to, or feel aggrieved about a technology that makes the life of a user a little bit more comfortable.

OE: So you now wish to introduce this technology to India?

MS: Yes certainly. Kapil Dudakia represents Speakeasy in India. He is a person with many talents in bringing projects and innovations to market with like minded partners. We look forward to realising the potential of this opportunity in India over the coming months and years.

What is 'Speakeasy Mobile'?

Speakeasy Mobile is the revolutionary new Mobile service that empowers its customers to use their Mobile the way they want to so making massive savings without compromising quality or complicating use.

No matter which Mobile phone operator Speakeasy Mobile customers choose to use, Speakeasy Mobile is always a complimentary service.

What is the Speakeasy Mobile technology?

Speakeasy Mobile is a service based on the revolutionary and Patented Speakeasy Mobile SIM Device. Essentially the Speakeasy Mobile SIM device is a 128Kb memory chip that can store 64 numbers, the user mobile number, a dial plan and all the information necessary to interact with the local Mobile network and the phone is use.

We were able to design the Speakeasy Mobile SIM Device to be wafer thin and so it can be placed on top of your existing SIM to fit snugly back into the phone.

We then took the opportunity to chat to Kapil Dudakia, who is well known not only to OE but also many in the NRI/PIO network:

OE: Kapil you are of course well known in many circles both in the UK as well as in India. What was it that first attracted you to this company

Mobile communications is moving at a rapid pace in India. It has revolutionised the very concept of communications. In fact for the vast majority it has allowed them to literally bypass the Internet since they have created their own social networks using SMS using their cells.

'Speakeasy Communications Ltd' and the technology they are promoting?

KD: When I first met Mark some months back and he demonstrated the 'Slim SIM' Speak Easy technology and how it works in practice. I have to say to you, I was utterly taken aback. My exact words were, 'Mark, this is a clever and an elegant solution.' My background is that I graduated in Electronic and Electrical Engineering and as such, when I analysed the solution being offered - it was simple, clean, efficient, effective and above all - it worked. What an elegant solution.

OE: OK, so it's clear you liked the product. But how did you get involved with the company?

KD: Mark informed me of the countries that had already taken up the offer of using this technology. I noticed that India was not on that list. Let's face it - India is a serious market where increasingly many more people will want to make international calls either for business, or to their family and friends overseas. The ability to make a relatively low cost international call directly from your mobile, and to do so easily I felt was a perfect solution for India.

OE: Can you just take me through the process of how it works from the users' perspective?

OK - at present you have several options.

Option 1: Call from an ISD (either private or public) and pay the going rate. This does however mean that either you have your own ISD line, or you have to go to a public booth to make that call.

Option 2: Purchase a prepaid calling card. What you then have to do is first dial an access number (can be

around 10 digits long), then you have to type in your account details (typically 12 digits long) followed by the actual international number you wish to dial (generally around 14 digits). Tedious comes to mind.

Option 3: The 'Speakeasy' method. Just dial your international number and allow the system to do the rest. Elegant solution.

What can I say; I would choose option 3 every time.

OE: What are your plans for India?

KD: Shortly I will be embarking on a quest to find a suitable in India that has the capacity and reach to take on board the exclusive rights to the technology for the whole country. Of course this means they need to be able to purchase the one off licence fee and enter into an agreement to purchase and sell a certain minimum number of Speakeasy SIMs on a monthly/yearly basis.

Companies for example who have already got access to a great distribution network which they can tap into with little effort. A company that knows how to market such products and one that will also give a great service to their clients. I will be looking for a very proactive partner who really wants to secure this opportunity, and are willing to go that extra mile in getting it. As they say, my door is open and therefore if any one of your esteemed readers feels they are in this category - contact me.

OE Comment:

Mobile communications is moving at a rapid pace in India. It has revolutionised the very concept of communications. In fact for the vast majority it has allowed them to literally bypass the Internet since they have created their own social networks using SMS using their cells. We have no doubt that the next few years will bring forth a combination of technologies that will greatly enhance user experience, as well as functionality to aid the individual and the business community.

Clever and innovative products continue to be invented by experts, and no doubt some of these will greatly enhance our daily experience. At OE we look forward to the continued development of various technologies since they have the power and capacity to unleash the genius that is so manifest in our nation.

INDIA'S WORST SHOW IN OVERSEAS DESTINATION



DO

LONDON: Anna effect has diluted the massive whitewash news of Indian cricket team but the shame brought by Indian cricketers has been unprecedented. On paper, the Indian cricket side's performance in England this summer ranks as their worst in England after the 5-0 whitewash in 1959 - which included three innings defeats and others by 171 runs and eight wickets.

However in 1952 - where statistically - India lost a four-Test series 3-0, it was not really any better.

The wipe outs in 1967 and 1974 - 3-0 each time - were as humiliating; and only memorable for Tiger

Pataudi's heroic hundred and half-century at Headingley in the first series and Sunil Gavaskar's technical excellence in reaching three figures at Old Trafford in the other.

1974 will, of course, be forever remembered for India being bowled out for 42 in an innings at Lord's - arguably, Indian cricket's most embarrassing moment.

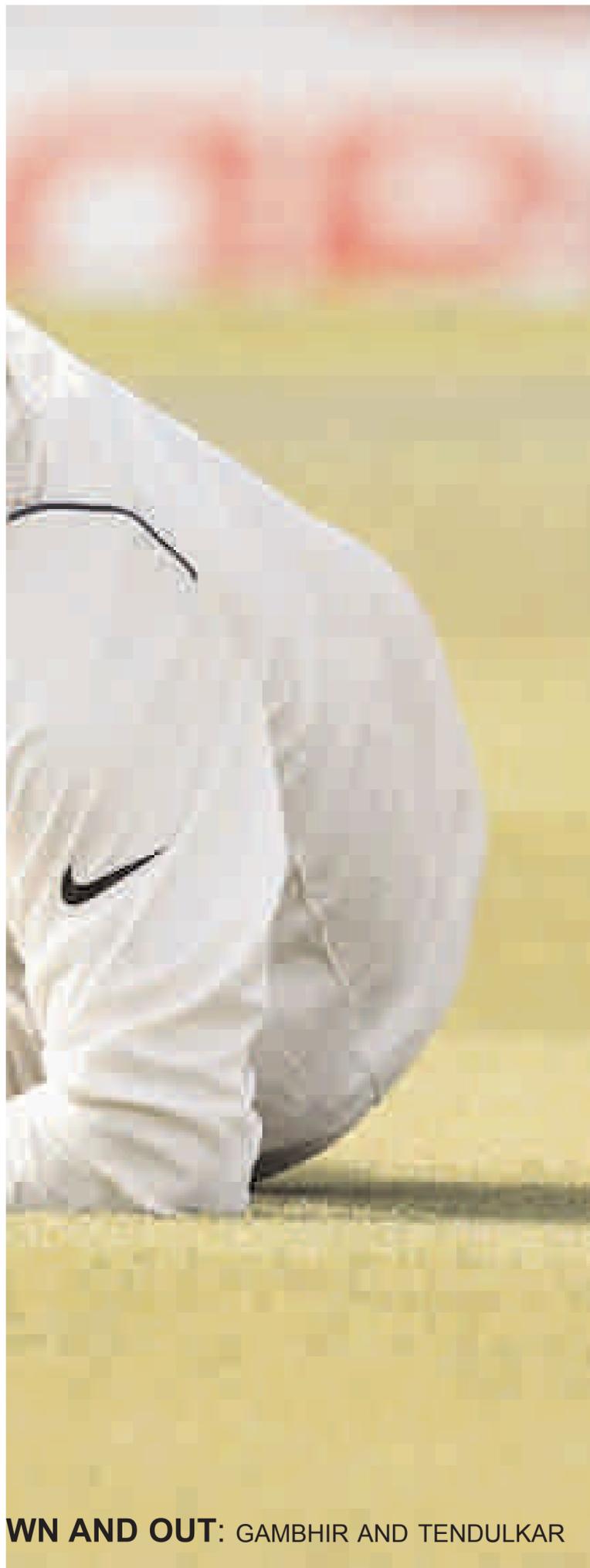
In 1952, India batted worse than in 2011, but possessed a little more penetration in their bowling. In the first Test at Headingley, they were infamously zero for four in the second innings. Pankaj Roy, D K Gaekwad, Madhav Mantri and Vijay Manjrekar

all failed to open their accounts. The last mentioned, though, recorded a sumptuous maiden hundred in the first innings. India ultimately lost by seven wickets.

At Lord's in the next encounter, notwithstanding Vinoo Mankad's marathon contribution of 72 and 184 and five for 196 in 77 overs, India succumbed by eight wickets.

The worst defeat was, however, suffered at Old Trafford, where the visitors nosedived by an innings and 207 runs, pathetically dismissed for 58 and 82 in their two outings.

And they only drew the final Test at The Oval because of rain, after being



IN AND OUT: GAMBHIR AND TENDULKAR

In 1952, India batted worse than in 2011, but possessed a little more penetration in their bowling. In the first Test at Headingley, they were infamously zero for four in the second innings. Pankaj Roy, D K Gaekwad, Madhav Mantri and Vijay Manjrekar all failed to open their accounts. The last mentioned, though, recorded a sumptuous maiden hundred in the first innings. India ultimately lost by seven wickets. At Lord's in the next encounter, notwithstanding Vinoo Mankad's marathon contribution of 72 and 184 and five for 196 in 77 overs, India succumbed by eight wickets.

shot out for 98 in the first innings. In 1952, other than England's 537 at Lord's, their highest total was 347 - in contrast to the 710 for seven, 591 for six, 544 and 474 they amassed this time.

It could be argued that had Virender Sehwag and Zaheer Khan been fully fit and available for the entire series, it might have made a difference. But Gautam Gambhir was unconvincing; and there's a gaping hole at number six, not to mention the limitations of MS Dhoni as wicket-keeper-batsman.

As for the bowling, Praveen Kumar's unavailability in the fourth



Test was unfortunate. At the same time, Ishant Sharma's ankle injury is unsurprising, considering the workload of seven Test matches in two months imposed on him. But where's the quality spinner?

To The Moon And Back

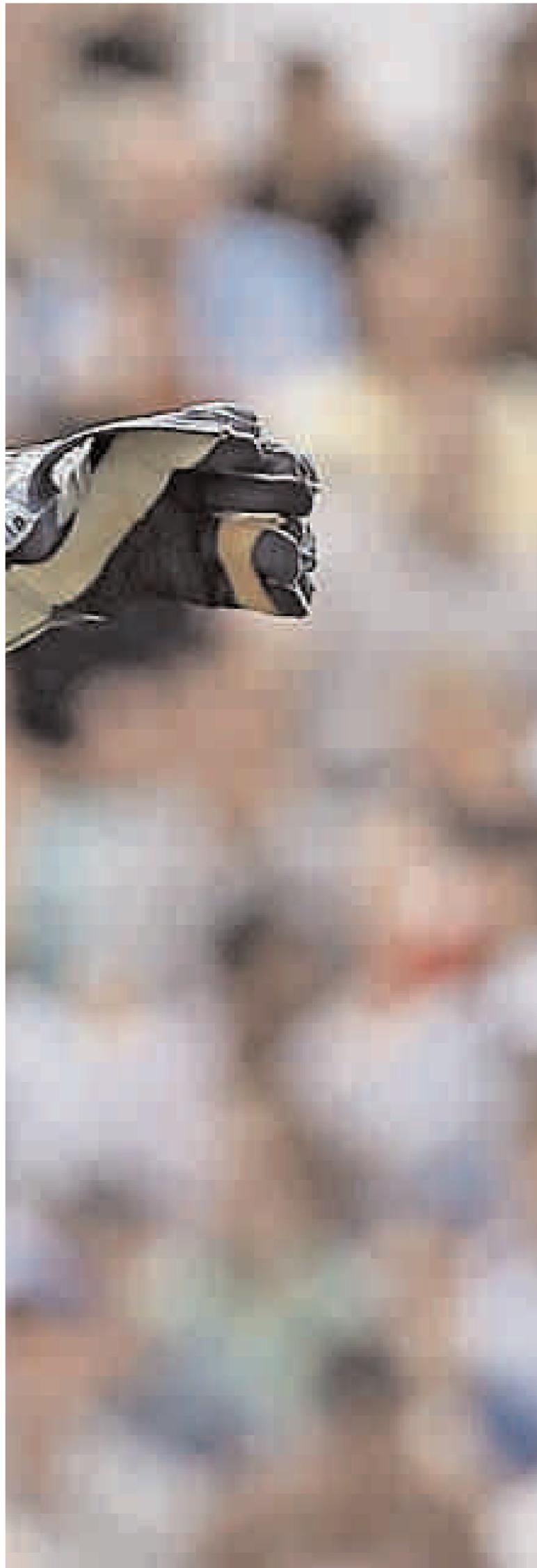
The parameters of success defined above hardly explain how India won top honours in all three formats. But it may explain why they are

The BCCI didn't plan on being No. 1. But once there, they could only offer short-term fixes to keep India there: by hastily arranging more Test matches. Resultantly, this exhausted, injury-hit squad has now produced its worst show since 2000, when they were beaten 3-0 in Australia.

no longer No. 1 in Test cricket.

How did India get there? Between

Sri Lanka in 2008 and England in 2011, India played 11 Test series,



Whitewashes suffered by India in Tests

Margin	Opponent	Venue	Series
5-0	England	England	1959
5-0	West Indies	West Indies	1961-62
3-0	England	England	1967
4-0	Australia	Australia	1967-68
3-0	England	England	1974
3-0	Australia	Australia	1999-00
4-0	England	England	2011



won eight and lost none. In the same period, Australia also played 11, won five and lost five. South Africa played eight, won three and lost one.

Clearly, there was only one team worthy of being No. 1 in this small period. India won in most conditions, against most opponents, in some of the direst situations.

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there: by hastily arranging more Test matches. Resultantly, this exhausted, injury-hit squad has now produced its worst show since 2000, when they were beaten 3-0 in Australia.

This was a series that carried weight and context, something not offered by cash-rich T20 competitions, which have provided cheap thrills and countless injuries. Imagine George Foreman winning the Rumble In The Jungle because Muhammad Ali

came to the fight with his right arm sprained from playing carrom. That is what India's predicament feels like.

Going forward, India have a cricket calendar packed tight as a Virar local. And they must ask themselves: from this huge buffet of cricket, what is most important to them? What do they want to win? What do they want to give to their millions of fans, who took great pride in the team's champion status?

Disaster in Australia?

Just six days after the England tour, MS Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Harbhajan Singh and a bunch of other Indians will turn up for the Champions League - a 17-day cash-rich exercise in frivolity, which has more in common with the WWE than proper cricket.

No doubt, exhausted muscles will be strained more. Injuries will be worsened. But it's not the players who seem to be bothered. When the Board has its cricketing priorities warped, why blame the players?

Then follow England and West Indies' tours to India, which will occupy all mind-space from October to

December. And then starts the tour which matters. India will be in Australia till March for four Tests and 11 ODIs.

Sourav Ganguly said recently that he had asked for three warm-up games a year in advance for the 2003-4 tour. Having prepared well, India went into the first Test at Brisbane - where Australia have not lost a Test since 1988 - and punched above their weight. And they did so throughout the series.

This time, India will have just one practice game. Meanwhile, Australia would be ready for them having played New Zealand at home. What chance will you give this tired, under-prepared Indian squad of winning in Australia?

With such poor short-term planning, what chance will you give India of becoming No. 1 again in the longer run?

Who Are Your Replacements?

Remember Jaidev Unadkat? He made a shock debut in Centurion when Zaheer Khan broke down. This was a statement from India's selection panel. That if the 19-year-old uncapped rookie could substitute India's best pace bowler, he must be a special talent.

If so, why was he dumped after one Test? If not, what was the thinking behind his selection?

What wrong did Abhimanyu Mithun do to not be considered in Zaheer's place when he had bowled his heart out in Sri Lanka only months before? The only thing Unadkat's selection achieved was - surprise, surprise - pump up his price at the IPL auction because he was now a 'capped' Indian player.

Also consider the case of Ranadeb Bose. 57 wickets in 8 Ranji matches in 2006-7. Selected for the tour of England. Benched throughout. Never selected again. How does a cricketer considered among India's top 30 drop off the radar without getting a chance to play?

There are other examples.

Sudeep Tyagi, Pankaj Singh, Umesh Yadav, Mithun, Vinay Kumar and Ashok Dinda have all represented India in recent times. Irfan Pathan is on the fringes. Yet, when Zaheer gets injured in England, RP Singh - who hasn't played a Test since 2008 - is named as the replacement.

This tells us two things.

One: our selectors can't decide

How India Became No. 1	
Superior Batting	In Perth, Durban, Jamaica, Trent Bridge, India showed they can handle pace-friendly wickets unlike their teams of the past.
Strong Pace Arsenal	India's growing stock of pacers in the mid-00s helped them give back as good as they got on seaming/bouncy wickets.
Opening Combination	In Sehwag and Gambhir, India finally found a solution to their problems at the top.
Mental Toughness	The experience of veterans, the reverence of youth gave India a team that wants to win.
How India Lost It	
Risks Not Taken	By playing defensively, India chose to draw games they could have won. England (Mumbai, 08), Wellington (08), Cape Town & Roseau (10).
No Quality Spinners	Harbhajan's bowling is stale as yesterday's news, yet India persisted with him. Ashwin hasn't been tried, the others don't seem capable of running through a side.
Poor Injury Management	Players like Zaheer, Sehwag weren't allowed enough time to recover fully. Why is player fitness so poorly monitored?
The Bouncer	Most young Indian players don't know how to play it. Their opponents know this too well.
Cricket Overdose	The players are overworked & fatigued and it shows.

who India's best players are. Players will be used and thrown as seen fit (Dravid is a great example), and they won't get as much as a phone call explaining why they've been dropped. When selectors can't determine who their No. 1, 2, 3, 4 players are, they will pick and drop them in any order.

Two: Nobody discusses this enough but perhaps these selection decisions are influenced by external forces - king-makers and sports marketers with dressing room access. These are people who stand to gain financially when their players get air-time.

Biased Selections?

Many cricketers such as Dhoni and Harbhajan have business interests in talent spotting and management companies. As for Dhoni, he has a clear commercial interest in picking players backed by Rhiti Sports - Harbhajan, RP and Suresh Raina.

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Could this explain why Harbhajan was given a long rope despite his horrifically bad form and how RP is back when he wasn't even part of India's plans all this while?

Despite the wonderful things that Dhoni has done as captain, it is worrying that some of his selections may have not been influenced by cold, hard cricketing reason. If so, it betrays a cricket-loving public that believes these men represent them, the republic of India, the tri-colour, not a management firm.

Long story short, our selectors -

despite being paid well - could do a far better job. But then, what hope do they have when they are led by a man who can't see the problem in naming his mediocre cricketer son on the India 'A' team? What does the son do? He turns in mediocre performances. This isn't the way to build a great team.

What About Fitness & Training?

As the England tour showed, too many players returned to the team having certified themselves fit.





Nearly all of them broke down again. What about the rehabilitation process? What about gently bringing them back into the team after a few practice matches? Where is the independent opinion on their fitness?

Take a look at the NCA. Is it a finishing school? A starting school? A rehab centre? The country's premier cricket academy does not even have a clearly defined role in shaping the future of Indian cricket.

Yesterday, Ravi Shastri asked Ganguly on air where India's next crop of pace bowlers is. The irony is hard to miss here. Shastri should have known the answer. After all, he was the chairman of the Academy for three years. Except that he was rarely available for NCA duties, thanks to his media commitments.

These are symptoms of larger problems of conflicting interests within the BCCI ecosystem. Why bother about the small matter of playing bat and ball when you have court cases to fight and money to make?

Finally...

BCCI to be regulated by independent agency, greed & extraordinary status to the players must be curtailed to bring sanity to the game.

By OECEL News Desk & Kapil Dudakia from London..

The right en

● G R Srinivasan

The debate on whether or not to have nuclear power in India is going on for the last thirty years. With 20 nuclear power plants already operating and six under construction in India, it appears too late and rather redundant to ask this question. Constructive criticism and debate should now be on what additional safety and commercial upgradation are required to further enhance the safety, security, reliability, viability and acceptability of nuclear power plants, especially in the scenario emerging after the Fukushima disaster in Japan a few months ago.

Energy planning in India needs to be done on four pillars, namely, thermal including gas, renewable including hydro as well as nuclear, and demand side controls like better energy conservation, efficiency, lower transmission and distribution losses etc. Each of these pillars needs to be developed independently and simultaneously, and not in isolation. In the nuclear pillar, the government has announced acceleration of the three-stage program of indigenous pressurized heavy water reactors and fast breeder reactors as envisaged by Dr Homi Bhabha, with additionality from imported reactors.

India has the capability of emerging as an important global nuclear player as has happened in case of I-T. The right roadmap to realize this must include the need for a balanced energy mix, energy independence and security, climate change and avoiding green house gases, sustainable development and tapping the huge thorium reserves in India – 25% of the world's availability – capable of producing three lakh megawatts of electricity for as many as 300 years. Obviously the nuclear energy option is inevitable for India.

The need for nuclear energy globally will not change even as the face of the nuclear industry may change. Some of the technologies India

plans to import are likely to witness the most widespread usage globally. Just like India has absorbed PHWR technology, indigenized it and is now making cheapest NPPs in the world (which have demonstrated safe, secure, reliable & viable operations for more than 330 reactor years), India could absorb technology of some of the plants planned to be imported, localize it and become a global exporter of the same in a decade. This global export from India could be much higher in volume than I-T presently. The program will generate more than half a crore extra jobs.

Public acceptance, opinion and diligence of policy makers and planners as well as political consensus are vital for deciding on issues like energy mix for India. Nuclear Energy that does not cause any harm to public and environment will alone be acceptable to public. While the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) is primarily responsible for safety, the Regulatory Body Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) in India oversees and ensures safety. The site for a nuclear power plant is chosen carefully, keeping safety, security and environment protection in mind and as mandated by AERB code on siting. Design of NPPs is based on several concepts to ensure safety of its operation. These include independent, redundant and diverse safety trains, fail safe, single failure criterion (failure of one equipment will not affect the function) etc. It is just like providing a car with four independent and redundant brake systems, starting from four brake pedals and finally up to four brake liners with each set capable of giving 100% protection of stopping the car.

The safety culture is simple - everybody in the organization does the right thing with respect to safety and security when nobody is looking at them. The safe operation is practically demonstrated by actual safe, secure, reliable and viable operation of more than 330 reactor years completed by 20 NPPs in India.

Energy mix for India

Activities in all these stages are reviewed, licensed through stipulations, enforced and inspected by AERB. All reviews are detailed and comprehensive, based on AERB safety documents including codes which are based on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) documents, thus adopting the current international standards and best practices. For example, the design review by AERB for Narora took five lakh technical man hours. Similar review is mostly completed for the Russian plant at Kudankulam and will be done for other imported reactors.

The safety performance of the 20 NPPs run by NPCIL has been satisfactory. This has been demonstrated by 3000 annual samples of grass, fish, milk, goat thyroids etc taken around each NPP and analyzed by independent Environmental Survey Laboratories accredited by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. Results indicate that due to the operation of these 20 NPPs, the public get less than 1% addition to the existing natural background of radiation which they would be exposed to whether NPP is there or not.

That the AERB functions in strict adherence to regulations is clear from the fact that on several occasions plant operation was suspended or construction license was put on hold for several projects if there was any lack of compliance. Restart was permitted only after corrective measures were implemented and AERB approved resumption. Both NPCIL and AERB can be compared to the best in the world as has been my feedback while attending bilateral meetings or meetings of Candu Regulators Group and IAEA. Both NPCIL and AERB have introduced several firsts. For example NPCIL prepared the first emergency operating procedures in 1977, while the rest of the world started these after the Three Mile Island accident in 1979.

Among the safety concerns raised in India, there is one pertaining to import of so-called 'unsafe' reactors. Safety is a moving target and in nuclear business you cannot build a

nuclear power reactor to yesterday's specification. The proven reactors are simply not available for construction. All reactors in India and many in China are untested but the important consideration is that all reactors currently available in the international market have evolved from respective tested cousins.

The current reactor technologies for reactors which will operate for next six decades or more are of G-3 or G3+ designs. The designs are such that even if severe Fukushima-type accidents take place in these NPPs, there will be none or minimal action required in public domain. Rather, the NPPs rely on gravity, natural circulation and compressed gases to keep the core and containment from overheating.

However, there is a limit to the degree of safety and security that can be attained by evolutionary design alone. They require 'first of the kind' systems. If one wants higher levels of safety/security one has to for untested NPPs. The alternative is to go for proven NPPs with lower levels of safety. The regulatory bodies have well recognized methods for validating 'first of the kind system' and these should be carried out by India also. An example is 3D in latest TVs and DVDs. The technology was earlier untested and unproven. Yet, after being introduced it emerged successful. Moreover, we can any time switch over to 2D as these TVs have all features of older TV. Similarly, untested generation 3+ reactors have all old features plus some new features. It can never be less safe than present designs, it can have considerably high degree of safety.

Questions are being raised whether the French EPR plant to be located at Jaitapur as well as other plants proposed to be located elsewhere can withstand earthquake and a resultant tsunami which can possibly occur at that location. The sites where NPPs will be located will be first approved by MOEF and then by AERB. AERB has issued a code on siting and all stipulations are mandated in this. Most of the areas in India are

in seismic zone 2 to 5. NPPs will not be located in Zones 4&5. Fortunately most of India is not in subduction zone and maximum earthquake intensity do not usually exceeds 7 which is 30 times less than what occurred in Fukushima. Coastal sites are selected after reviewing tsunami possibilities, effect on marine life etc in a scientific manner and against international and Indian safety regulations.

Present Indian NPPs go through elaborate safety review process. All safety equipments are located above maximum flood level or tsunami levels taken from historical data and probabilistic approach. It was because of these strict regulations that the Madras Atomic Power Plant withstood the tsunami and the Kakrapar Atomic Plant stood the Bhuj earthquake. The earthquake design of Jaitapur plant will fulfill the complete spectrum of earthquakes that can occur at this location in future.

Lastly, there seems some concern about the cost of electricity produced from nuclear power plants. If we take the Tarapur-1&2 experiences, in 1964, some felt it was a very uneconomic proposition. Five decades later, it has been found to have delivered for last 40 years cheapest electricity, the current tariff being about Re. 1/ kWh. The contribution of the Indian Industry in bringing the cost of these reactors under control is also enormous and industry is poised to take full advantage of the global nuclear business. In addition, due to high plant load factor (higher than 90%) over expected sixty years life, nuclear though capital intensive but lower fuel costs etc, the production costs will prove the competitiveness. Nuclear power is quite competitive globally in regions which have limited fossil fuels and associated infrastructure. If it is competitive elsewhere, there is no reason to fear it will not be competitive in India.

(The writer is a former Vice Chairman of the AERB or Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India.)

BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR METRO SHOES, SAIF ALI KHAN SHOOTS FOR THE LINE 'CASUAL TO CLASSY'



Donning 6 different get-ups in a matter of 2 hours is no mean feat but Saif Ali Khan, Brand ambassador for Metro Shoes made it look like a 'cakewalk' as he transformed into several unique styles while shooting for a print campaign for the brand. The autumn-winter collection for the brand comprised of loafers, patent leather formals, suedes, driving shoes and chappals with the colour palette ranging from molten chocolate browns to cherry reds, blacks and slate grey's.

The concept of the ad was unique as the entire set-up was done up in mirrors and being a true photographers dream, Saif posed effortlessly for lens-man Amitabh Kame. Styled by Tanya Fraser, Saif is seen exuding attitude in all his looks. Be it the Formal Red Carpet Ensemble with patent lace - ups, the breezy linen casuals with black studded chappals or the biker jacket look with leather slip ons. Leaning against his own reflection and also posing with utmost dexterity, Saif finished the shoot in record time and the outcome has been perfect!

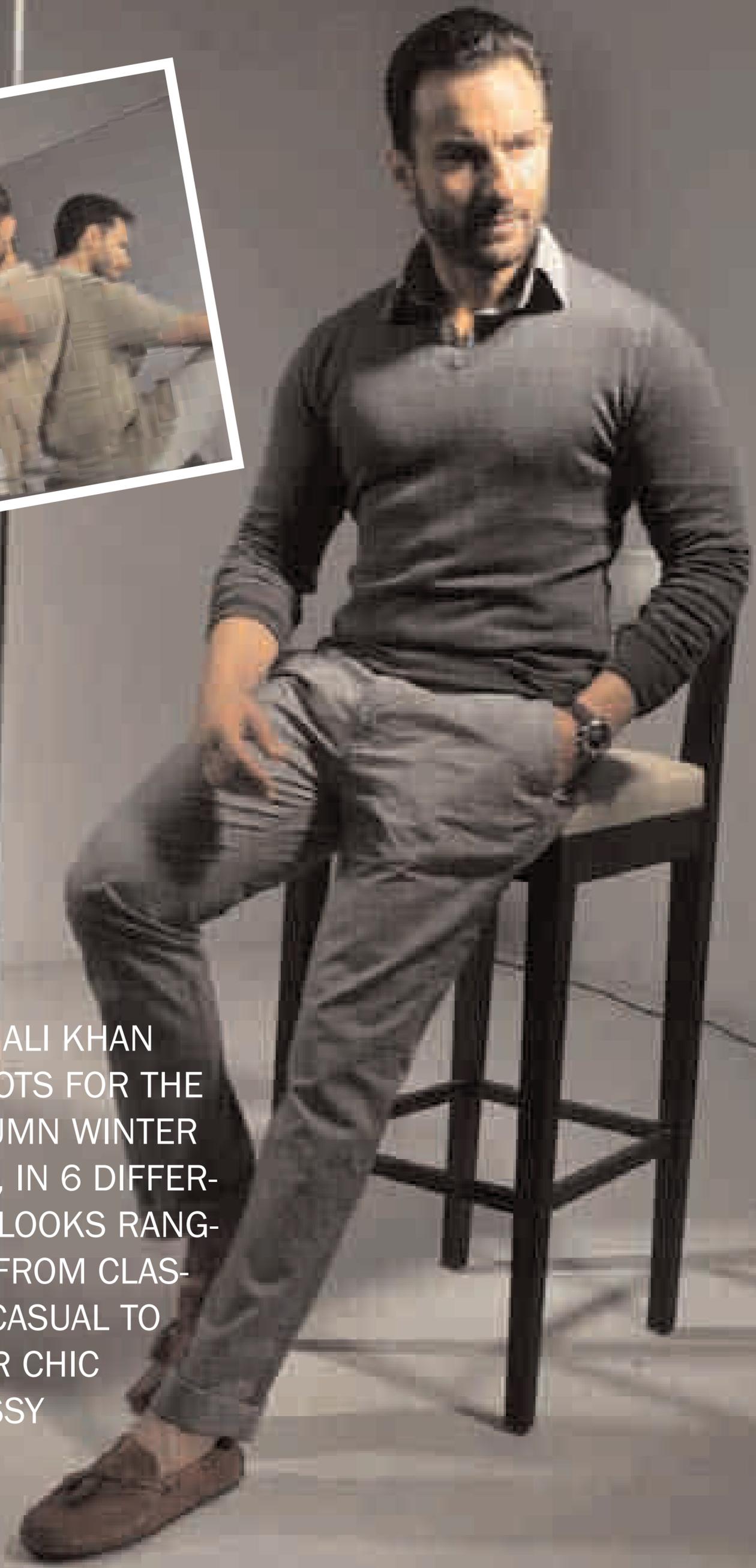
Saif also shared some interesting tid-bits while shooting: "I own over 60 pairs of shoes from boots to formals. I had a great time doing this shoot as the team was superb, Metro Shoes had a brilliant concept and they made me look good..."

On being asked whether he has any indulgences...the Chotte navab replied, "I go through phases...I have an indulgence from shades, to shoes to clothes to sun glasses. I dress more for comfort and of-course style is important. I also keep in mind the weather!"

On a signing off note he did wish everyone a hearty 'Eid Mubarak'.

The following looks were donned by him:

- 1) Red Carpet
- 2) Casual
- 3) Corporate Wear
- 4) Ethnic Casual
- 5) Party
- 6) Casual



SAIF ALI KHAN
SHOOTS FOR THE
AUTUMN WINTER
LINE, IN 6 DIFFER-
ENT LOOKS RANG-
ING FROM CLAS-
SIC CASUAL TO
UBER CHIC
CLASSY

Loving my journey back home : **DIMPLE**

Dimple Sharma is a proud product of a new generation of modern Indian women. She is a professional model both in agencies and freelance. Dimple has beautiful sharp features with absolutely hypnotizing eyes and of course her trademark dimples. She's extremely modest and humble. At first many perceive Dimple as a very shy and reserved person because she tends to listen more than speak when she first meets anyone but once she opens up, people are pleasantly surprised when they discover her sense of humour and quick wit. Dimple is a very simple person. She enjoys spending time with her family and close friends, reading,

watching movies and eating as she is a complete foodie.

Background

- Born and raised in Montreal, Canada; Dimple comes from an extremely close-knit family of four girls.
- Dimple graduated from prestigious McGill University which is the top-ranked university in Canada and one of the top leading universities in the world.
- Dimple speaks English, French, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi
- Dimple is also a very talented and graceful dancer. She has been dancing since she was a child and has performed at many shows and events with her friends while growing up.

Career

- Dimple has an extremely photogenic face so it's no surprise she holds two Miss Photogenic titles.
- Dimple has been interested in modeling from a young age and always wanted to go Mumbai to model.
- Dimple is a successful full-time model in Mumbai and has worked with some of the industry's top actors such as: Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Aishwariya Rai, John Abraham, Saif Ali Khan, Lara Dutta etc.
- She has shot television commercials with celebrated Bollywood directors such as Abhinav Kashyap, Anurag Basu, Rensil D'Silva, Nikhil Advani and acclaimed Hollywood director

Jeffery Darling.

- Currently Dimple is the new face for Dove shampoo not only in India but all across Asia. She has also modeled for brands such as: Avon Cosmetics, L'Oreal, Coca Cola, Levis, Samsung, Forevermark (De Beers Diamonds), Nissan, Dockers, Canon camera, Fair & Lovely, Micromax, LG, Provogue, Reliance Trends, Pantaloons, Lenovo, Facia facial cleanser, Rotomac among other brands.

- Dimple has also worked in Hollywood. Internationally, her big break was a contract with Avon Cosmetics. Dimple is the face of India for their worldwide Campaign. She was flown to Buenos Aires, Argentina where she shot a television commercial and photo shoot with acclaimed Hollywood director Jeffrey Darling. The television commercial will be releasing soon across the world.

- Dimple has been signed on by GQ Magazine as a "Gadget Girl". She has appeared on numerous magazine covers and was most recently featured on the cover of "Femina".

- Dimple also recently starred in Panjabi MC's "Moorni" music video which was an instant hit around the world.

Q&A

How do you rate fashion industry of North America viz global fashion scenario including India?

They're at odds to each other. North America's is elegant and tasteful. India's is glamorous and exciting. The jewelry is a great example. Consider how bold and ornamental Indian jewelry is versus Western jewelry.

What is interesting is the harmonious co-existence of both extremes within India. Indians continue to embrace, and comfortably, wear designs from both sides of the world. Consider your typical young professional in Mumbai. She could wear an extravagant Saree and jewels for a wedding on a Sunday, a smart business suit for her CEO meeting on Monday and a tasteful dress for dinner with her husband on a Tuesday night. That variety is simply less prevalent elsewhere in the World.

What is even more interesting is the edge that Indian designers enjoy. They could combine the Indian designs they grew up around with the Western designs they have come to know.

As someone who proudly traces her roots to both sides of the world, I love to wear designs from each. It's nice to be surrounded by fellow Indians who genuinely appreciate the full range of designs.





How does creativity of PIO/NRI artists reach global platform? Internet does offer a platform but physical appearance is vital to showcase creative work, Hence you need to be present in India. How do you find the challenge?

Despite being present in India, I really don't believe physical presence in India is a pre-requisite to success in this country. Firstly, our people are not so nationalist so as to shun any artist not working out of India. Secondly, there is a slew of distribution channel through which the work of NRIs is brilliantly showcased here: Internet, print media, television, cinemas, etc. It doesn't take long to come up with a long list of examples: Actors like Dev Patel and Aziz Ansari, directors like M. Night Shyamalan, writers like Rohinton Mistry, thinkers like Amartya Sen. I could go on. The list knows no bounds, nor does the creativity of our people in this global arena.

Revenue generation in West is a challenge in recession time, how does the fashion community sustain this challenge?

All over the world, especially in the West, the fashion community has come up with innovative ways to cope with the recession. For example, some designers are focusing a lot more on eco-friendly products, or products derived from eco-friendly ways. At the same time, campaigns that are targeting a market which is easily accessible are implemented.

There are great designers at every level of the market. And when times are tough, it creates opportunities for quality, lesser known designers. Along with new innovative designs and more economical campaigns, one is likely to see new talent emerge with hyper-focus on quality and cost-effectiveness further expanding the dimensions of the fashion community.

Leaving family and living in India must be a tough

decision for any individual, how do you connect with them on daily basis emotionally?

My family was very supportive of my career choice. Moving away, by contrast, has been trying for them because we are so close. Luckily, we live in a time where technology is so advanced that one has many options to stay in touch with loved ones.

I speak with my family on a daily basis via video chats, text, email etc...Nothing rivals being there so I do fly back and forth from time to time.

Your favorite Indian & West Model?

Aishwariya Rai. Growing up, I remember freezing when flipping to a picture of her in a magazine. She was, and continues to be, absolutely stunning. I had the privilege of meeting and working with her and she is even more breathtaking in person. She remains humble and sweet despite her tremendous success.

Across the world, it would have to be Tyra Banks. As a teenager, I bought her book "Tyra's Beauty, Inside and Out" which was basically a Resource book with tips on healthy eating, skin care, exercise etc... The book had this one picture of her sans make-up. It's rare for a celebrity to openly publish a photograph like that given the often vicious public and media scrutiny models endure. But to Tyra that was no concern: She went ahead and published it. How inspiring. She shows her following, many of whom are young impressionable girls, that models come with their own set of imperfections and that one must learn to embrace oneself as one is. What matters more is the content of one's character. While it may be possible to go a lifetime concealing one's imperfections, one can never conceal flaws in one's character.

Inputs from Ritu - Fashion desk & Canada Bureau Herman Silochan

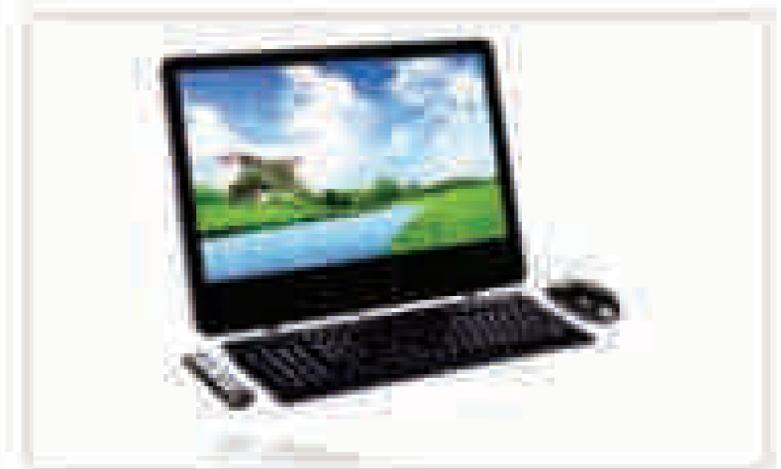
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BAHRAIN'S WHO'S WHO RELEASED IN CHICAGO

Bahrain's ECONOMIC VISION 2030 was discussed at a Professional Summit of Kerala/Indian professionals in Chicago last week. Nearly a dozen professional organizations of Indians in different parts of U.S.A had arranged a one day conference the first of its kind at Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Chicago under the auspices of FOMAA (Federation of Malayalee Associations of America). Mr. Ramesh Chennithala, President of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee President and Mr.T.P.Sreenivasan Former Indian Ambassador to Austria were the chief guests. Experts from different areas and academic heads and journalists spoke on the occasion.

As a special guest Mr. Sunny Kulathakal, Managing Editor of the Gulf Who's Who Directory Bahrain and GOPIO's International Coordinator for the Middle East addressed the gathering and the directory was officially released at the function for the U.S market. Kulathakal focused on the interviews of nearly 200 dignitaries on VISION 2030 of Bahrain which forms part of the 750 pages Directory. He mentioned that the dreams and aspirations of the leaders of a tiny island nation to improve the standard of living of its citizens are quite evident in these interviews.

Dr. Sreedhar Kavil senior Professor and former Chairman of St. John's University in his keynote address appreciated the contents of the 2011-2012 Directory. He stressed that the recent negative global publicity against Bahrain in foreign media could be rectified through wide circulation of such publications. Dr. Kavil mentioned that we should be proud and happy that an Indian could bring out such a precious and timely document to project to the outside world, a positive true picture of Bahrain.

A series of campaign to explain the salient features of VISION 2030 of Bahrain was started by the publishers of Gulf Who's Who Directory 2011-2012 in different parts of the United States of America last month. The Directory was widely distributed to the American Arab Chamber of Commerce and other Diplomatic missions. Separate Public functions were organized in Houston, St. Louis and Dallas where Mr. Kulathakal Managing Editor and Mrs. Elizabeth Sunny Kulathakal, Business Editor of the Directory attended.

SURVEY SHOWS IT PROFESSIONALS HEADING BACK TO INDIA

According to survey conducted by recruitment consulting firm MyHiringClub.com, as reported in the media, IT and IT-enabled firms in India hired 28 percent more non-resident Indian (NRI) professionals in the first quarter of 2011-12. Due to shortage of jobs and declining wages overseas, an increasing number of NRI IT professionals are returning to India. During the first quarter of the current fiscal year, IT and IT-enabled services registered highest growth, as much as 28 percent. Several other sectors of the economy have also seen noticeable job growth. Pharma and healthcare grew by 20 percent, automobile

and manufacturing by 18 percent, telecom by 14 percent, banking and financial services by 10 percent.

Largest number of returned NRIs found jobs in Bangalore, followed by Mumbai, Delhi and Hyderabad.

KERALA ADDS SOPs FOR ITS NRIs

The first budget presented by the Congress-led United Democratic Front has added Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Kerala diaspora by way of a rehabilitation scheme, a legal aid cell and a 24-hour helpline. A new centre will also be set up to improve the skill sets of those who want to go abroad for a job.

According to a study done by the Centre for Development Studies on the diaspora, there are more than two million Keralites working abroad, of whom around 90 percent are in the Middle-East. The budget QAS presented by Finance Minister K.M. Mani.

"The NORKA department will come out with an elaborate program for the rehabilitation of those people who have returned from abroad on account of internal issues in some countries," said Mani. According to the CDS study, the number of returnees from the Middle East has crossed one million in the last one decade.

INDIA IS LARGEST SOURCE OF SKILLED MIGRANTS TO NEW ZEALAND

India has emerged as the largest source country for New Zealand with a 12 percent increase in approval of applications under the skilled migrant category for the 2010-11 financial year. Among the top source countries to New Zealand, Britain decreased by 17 percent, China decreased by 11 percent, South Africa decreased by 37 percent and the Philippines decreased by 25 percent, according to the Migration Trends Statistics (MTS) report for July 2010 to May 2011.

India's increase was due to former Indian students who transited to temporary work and then went on to permanent residence, it said. The report focused on three key areas - the New Zealand residence programme, permanent skilled migration and temporary entry.

With regard to student visas to New Zealand, as many as 69,448 people were approved in July 2010-May 2011 - a three percent increase from the 67,453 in the previous financial year. From July 2010-May 2011, the largest source countries of students were China (23 percent), India (14 percent) and South Korea (12 percent).

Indian-origin MP Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi said that as New Zealand was a peaceful country, it has emerged as an ideal destination for study. Its spectacular scenery and rich and diverse culture were the other factors that made it a favorite among Indians.

Richard Howard, honorary member and past chairman of the New Zealand Association for Migration and Investment, said: "These statistics confirm the clear trend that New Zealand is seen as an increasingly attractive study and migrant destination for Indian students."



Strategic Location

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

Immediate Hinterland

Roha, Khopoli, Malvad, Palaganga, Nagthane, Navi Mumbai, Mumbai, Thane-Bolapur, Raik, Pune

Secondary Hinterland

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

Connectivity

By Road

Northern Shore SH 60, SH 62 and SH 63
Southern Shore SH 67 and SH 68

By Rail

Connectivity - Northern and Southern bank
Proposed Alignment: Agarda - Indapur - Mangon

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 & logistic state of the art cargo handling equipment transportation & support infrastructure facilities

Cargo Potential

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



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