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OPINION

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BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY



COVER STORY

EASTERN PUSH

While honours are even in the state polls, BJP makes a mark by capturing Assam

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BJP emerges as major gainer in state polls

BJP emerged as the major gainer, annexing power in Assam for the first time as the assembly elections in five states came to an end last month. As expected, AITMC retained power in Bengal while Left Front upstaged congress led coalition in Kerala. Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, went AIADMK way again. The tenure of the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu expired on May 22, 2016. The polls for the next assembly were held on 16 May 2016 for the 234 seats of the Legislative Assembly in the state of Tamil



Nadu in India. In the previous election in 2011, the AIADMK, under the leadership of Jayalalithaa, won a majority and formed the government. The results declared on 19 May 2016 and AIADMK was able to retain power with a comfortable majority of 133 seats out of 231. The tenure of the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal expired on May 29, 2016. Like in 2011, the polls for the next assembly were held in six phases. The first phase, held in Naxal-affected areas, had two polling dates — April 4 and April 11. The other phases were held on April 17, 21, 25, 30 and May 5. West Bengal election results were announced along with other four assemblies on 19 May 2016. All

India Trinamool Congress under Mamata Banerjee won 211 seats, and thus was reelected with an enhanced majority. The tenure of the Legislative Assembly of Kerala expired on May 31, 2016. The polls for the next assembly were held on 16 May 2016. The Left Democratic Front won a clear victory with 91 in 140 seats. The tenure of the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry expired on June 2, 2016. The polls for the incumbent assembly were held in two phases on April 4 and 11 2016 to elect members of the 126 constituencies in Assam. BJP won 60 seats and became biggest party in the election.

On the sidelines of the formation of the first elected Government of the BJP-led alliance in Assam on May 24, a significant political entity called the North East Democratic Alliance entered into the political spectrum of the country by the same evening. NEDA was formed at a high-level political meeting that took place between State leaders of the BJP, newly elected Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Himanta Biswa Sarma (chief strategist of the party in the Assam election) and the Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Sikkim, along with BJP president Amit Shah and general secretary Ram Madhav. It was formed by the BJP with three regional parties of the North-East — the Sikkim Democratic Front, the Nagaland People's Front and the People's Party of Arunachal. It will be headed by its convenor Himanta Biswa Sarma, a master political strategist who was the main architect of the BJP's historic victory in Assam. Later, Sarma outlined that NEDA's aim was to improve coordination among the NDA partners in the north-eastern States and strengthening the base of all the constituent parties across the region. Besides, it will lay emphasis on good governance, speedy development in the States wherever NDA partners are in power. As Ram Madhav highlighted, NEDA would partner the ruling NDA at the Centre.

With NEDA, the BJP has demonstrated a political masterstroke as it reflects broadening its base from the political mainstream of New Delhi to the alienated North-East, a region neglected by successive Governments at the Centre for decades. Therefore, it will bring home the message that nationalist parties like the BJP could well work with regional parties having their own distinct ethnic, linguistic and cultural identities. If strengthened, NEDA could be poised to make a wider conglomeration of like-minded regional parties by including the Asom Gana Parishad, the Bodoland People's Front, the Mizo National Front, the Manipur People's Party and all other anti-Congress as well as anti-Left leaning groups, so that the BJP's 'Congress-mukt Bharat' mission sees the light of the day even in the North-East. What sprung from NEDA is that the BJP, with its development agenda at the core, will hit hard at the Congress bastions of power in the region and more particularly, bring the North-East people closer to Delhi by fighting erstwhile sentimental rhetoric like 'India against itself', prevalent for long. But, regionalism being in the DNA of the North-East people, the BJP must tread carefully while dealing with issues related to migration, border and ethnicity. Beyond poll talk, the BJP should come up with a pragmatic solution to the vexed NSCN(IM) and Ulfa issues, which had been sidelined by previous Delhi dispensations for decades. Through NEDA, the BJP should send vibes to these States that they are not 'far from Delhi' and that regions beyond India's 'chicken neck' are truly an integral part of the mainland.

—Prashant Tewari, Editor-in-Chief



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FREE RUN: PAKISTAN NAVAL BASE AFTER THE RECENT ATTACK

Is Pak a rogue state, or just a failed one?

Prashant Tewari

There is something surreal about Pakistani officials' reaction to the killing of Osama bin Laden. Their focus has been wholly on the violation of Pakistan's sovereignty by the U.S. raid, rather than the fact that bin Laden was living well in their country. The army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, warned he would not tolerate any repeat of such covert action. Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir said any similar attack could lead to "terrible consequences."

"No self-respecting nation would compromise or allow others to compromise its sovereignty," Bashir insisted. But how could any self-respecting nation allow the world's top terrorist to operate out of its heartland? How could any self-respecting state permit the leader of al-Qaida - a group made up of Arabs, Uzbeks and Chechens - a base in their country?

Unless Pakistani officials address

these questions head-on, they are heading for terrible consequences. They risk not just their relationship with the United States but their country's existence as well. No one believes the civilian government of President Asif Ali Zardari knew bin Laden was hiding in Abbottabad. And most experts doubt that Gen. Kayani, a square shooter, was aware of bin Laden's location.

But few security experts familiar with Pakistan doubt that some agents in Pakistan's Interservice Intelligence Agency (ISI) knew of bin Laden's hideout. How could they not? He was living practically next door to Pakistan's equivalent of West Point, in a city filled with serving and retired military personnel - where other top al-Qaida operatives had been captured.

If the fix wasn't in, wouldn't the ISI have been watching for unusual activities? The mansion where bin Laden lived had already attracted attention.

"Surely, they knew he was here," writes the astute Pakistani columnist Cyril Almeida, in Dawn newspaper. "Maybe they're so daft they didn't really take this whole business of al-Qaida seriously. Maybe they just didn't think it was their problem." "If we didn't know, we are a failed state," Almeida adds. "If we did know, we are a rogue state. But does anybody really believe they didn't know?"

The answer will determine the future of U.S.-Pakistani relations. This administration has tried to build bonds of trust with Pakistani counterparts. But unless the ISI comes clean on bin Laden, it will be hard to deflect congressional pressure to cut military and civilian aid to Islamabad. It may become impossible for the two countries to cooperate on a political endgame for the Afghan war, as U.S. troops exit. Without such cooperation, Afghanistan faces renewed civil war that will spill across the Pakistani border. This would be a self-inflicted tragedy for Pakistan.

The U.S.-Pakistani relationship was already sliding downhill because of Pakistani ire over an expanded CIA presence. But this presence would be unnecessary if the ISI was vigorously pursuing the al-Qaida and other hard-line terrorists on their soil.

Pakistani officials have taken on their own Taliban who threaten them. But they won't confront Afghan Taliban or terrorist groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, whom they view as useful tools in their struggle with India.

Assume they didn't know where bin Laden was, that they were just incompetent. Why didn't they try harder? "Maybe they just didn't think it was their problem," Almeida surmised in his column. Too true.

The Pakistani army and ISI are so obsessed with India that they can't grasp the bigger threat inside their borders. Their distinction between "good" terrorists who fight India and the West and bad ones who attack Pakistanis is reckless. Letting these terrorists flourish in Pakistan eats at the core of the state.

And what if ISI agents were helping bin Laden. Why would they do it? As Almeida points out, "Pakistan has nothing in common with al-Qaida. They serve no purpose to us."

We need answers quickly.

"The best way to confront the situation is to come clean and tell people what is really happening," retired Pakistani Gen. Talat Masood told me by phone from Islamabad. Instead, Pakistani officials are posturing.

"This is a very dangerous way of deflecting the public's attitude from the real problem," Masood said. "Are they proposing to face the problem or not? We need to know."

The United States had confronted Pakistan with evidence of involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the recent bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. The fact that ISI is behind this act of terrorism should come as no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the role that ISI has historically played in the region. ISI is an organization that is infested with sympathizers of Islamic extremists and terrorists.

ISI's involvement with Islamic radicals dates back to the 1970s. Zbigniew Brzezinski, the National Security Advisor for President Carter, initiated a campaign to support the Mujahedeen (the precursor of Taliban and Al Qaeda) in Pakistan and Afghanistan, which were run by the ISI with financial support from the CIA and Britain's MI6. In 1980, Brzezinski secured an agreement with the Saudi government to match dollar for dollar, the US support for the Mujahedeen. This policy had the explicit aim of promoting Islamic radicals (the Jihadis) to overthrow the secular government in Afghanistan. In 1998, in an interview he gave to the French newspaper *Nouvel Observateur* on the topic of Afghanistan, Brzezinski revealed that CIA support for the Mujahedeen had started before the 1979 Soviet invasion, as part of a strategy designed to draw the neighboring Soviet invasion to respond by invading Afghanistan. The Saudis in the mean time were busy funding Mosques and religious schools in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the bordering republics of the Soviet Union (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).

The rise of the Afghan Mujahedeen, together with the growing radicalization of the Muslims in the Soviet republics pushed the Soviet Union to invade Afghanistan, ostensibly, to save the

secular, and pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan. Brzezinski saw the invasion, which he referred to as the Afghan Trap as an opportunity to embroil the Soviet Union in a bloody conflict comparable to America's experience in Vietnam. In his view, the end of the Soviet empire was worth the cost of strengthening militant Islamic groups.

The US and Saudi funds helped finance, arm, and train the Afghan Mujahedeen groups which after the withdrawal of the Soviet army from Afghanistan, evolved into the Taliban and the Al Qaeda and took control of Afghanistan. Pakistani ISI continued to maintain close ties with these terrorist groups. After the Mujahedeen took control of Afghanistan, ISI focused its attention on expanding the activities of the Mujahedeen to the Indian state of Kashmir. The Mujahedeen, with the backing of ISI and Saudi funds, turned their attention to spreading their radical Islamic agenda around the world, and eventually ended up attacking the United States on September 11, 2001.

It was a huge mistake on the part of the US to fund Pakistani ISI (and through it, the radical Islamic Mujahedeen in Afghanistan). Pakistan, under successive military governments controlled by an unholy alliance of radical Islamists, druglords, and warlords nurtured by the ISI, has used Islamic radicals and

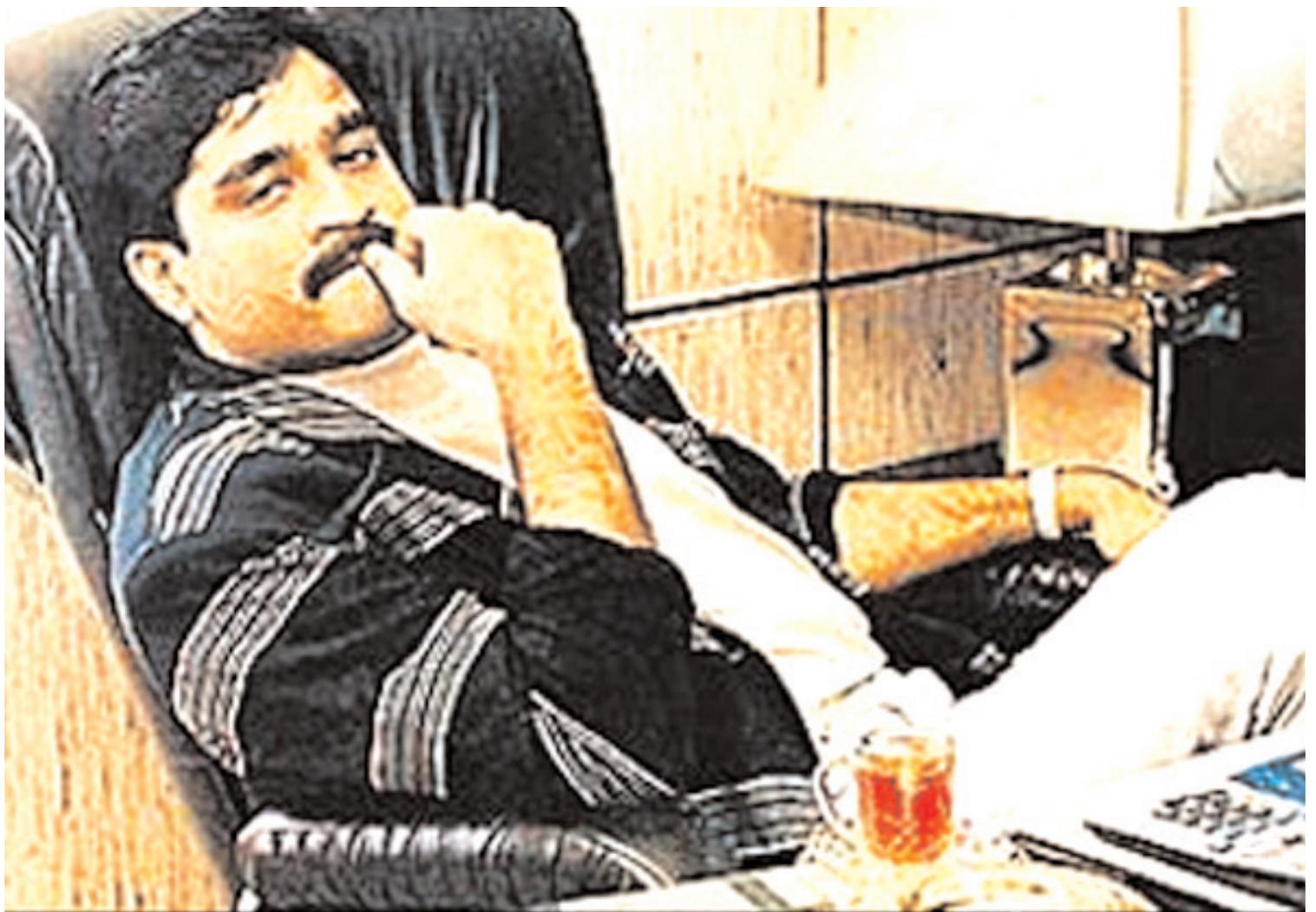
terrorism as an instrument of state policy aimed at destabilizing Afghanistan and bleeding India in Kashmir. It is unclear whether the civilian leadership of Pakistan is in a position to reverse this policy.

Pakistan cannot be an ally of the US in any kind of war on terrorism when the key institutions within Pakistan - including its military and intelligence agencies - are infested by Islamic radicals and terrorist sympathizers. Relying on Pakistani ISI to help fight the terrorists and Islamic radicals would amount to an extension of the short-sighted, and ultimately dangerous US policies of the Zbigniew Brzezinski era. Winning the war against radical Islam and global terrorism requires a multi-pronged approach, one that brings together the United States, Russia, China, India, Australia, and the major European powers.

The multi-national force may need to attack and neutralize terrorist hideouts and training camps inside Pakistan. It may require occupation of Pakistan - not unlike the occupation of Germany after the second world war - to demilitarize Pakistan and free it from the radical Islamist ideology.

Tactically, US have realized that Pakistani establishment can't be trusted hence they opted for solo strike to kill Bin Laden. Now US should realize that rouge nuclear state can be a threat to entire world including its own strategic interest in Asia. Secondly, India must not wait for the eventuality to strike but preempt the process to liquidating nuclear arms from Pakistan, with or without USA. Unfortunately, India has a poor record even while dealing on the issue of Dawood Ibrahim stationed in Pakistan for years after creating mayhem in Mumbai. What surprises me is how little the Indian Government has done to destroy his thriving business empire, still based out of Mumbai. There is little doubt that Dawood's empire has protection from the establishment. Nothing will weaken India's most wanted man more than a systematic dismantling of his business empire and finances in India. We don't need Pakistan's cooperation to do that. The country is at a cross road on the subject of how to deal with a growing threat from a weak yet dangerous rouge neighboring state.

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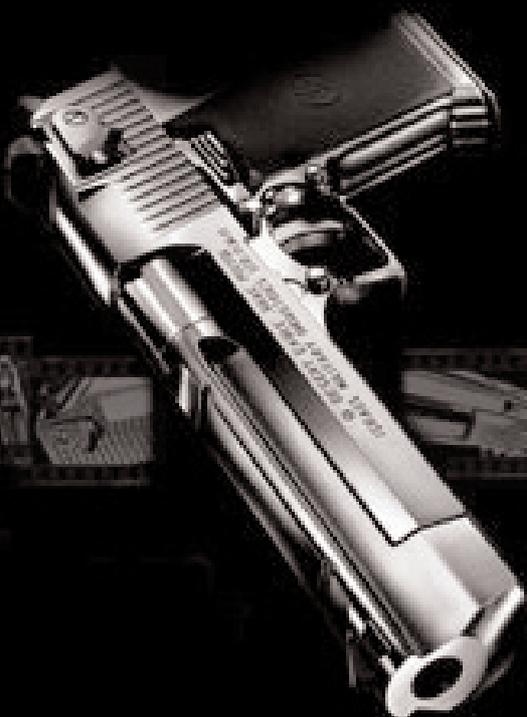


D TERROR

Is Dawood Ibrahim too powerful to be tamed by a republic of more than a billion people?

Prashant Tewari

This is a story not to glorify a criminal but an eye opener for a nation having over a billion people living helplessly at the mercy of ineffective security apparatus to nab most wanted terrorist and criminal. Dawood Ibrahim also known as Dawood Ebrahim, and Sheikh Dawood Hassan, birth name Sheikh





TERROR SPEARHEAD: DAWOOD'S BROTHER IQBAL KASKAR IN CUSTODY OF MUMBAI POLICE

Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar, is the head of the organized crime and terror syndicate D-Company in Mumbai. Dawood's D-Company has been identified as a criminal-terrorism syndicate by the US Congress.

Dawood is currently on the wanted list of Interpol for organised crime and counterfeiting, besides association with Al-Qaeda as identified in UN Security Council resolutions 1822 (2008) and 1267 (1999). He was No. 4 on the Forbes 2008 list of The World's 10 Most Wanted criminals, and no. 50 on the Forbes 2009 list of The World's Most Powerful People.

He is said to have begun his real criminal career in Mumbai working for the Karim Lala gang (which later became his

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own gang's rival) exploiting the rapid expansion in the Bombay (now Mumbai) textiles industry to his advantage, though another version says that he began his criminal career working as a career for smuggler Haji Mastan.

In either case, he eventually split from both of them and started his own gang, D-Company. He soon moved his residence to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he has business interests alongside India.

He established chains of businesses in partnership with local Sheikhs. He rubbed shoulders with kings and princes of the Gulf emirates and acquired more power, which at later stages saved him from being extradited to India.

DAWOOD IBRAHIM: INDIA'S OSAMA?

Is terrorism really the last desperate resort of the poor? While all attention is focused on Osama bin Laden and his cohorts allegedly cornered in western Pakistan, in India there is an equal amount of interest in the one man who is wanted just as desperately - Dawood Ibrahim. . . .

The hunt for Dawood is taking place following Pakistan's realization that flushing out terrorists and jihadi elements has become a necessity for its own survival. Pakistan has currently amassed 20,000 troops along the Afghanistan border for what is being believed to be a decisive battle against bin Laden and al-Qaeda militants.

But what might be more than a coincidence is that

Pakistan's sudden willingness to flush out Dawood comes amid reports in the Indian media that a timely tip-off by the Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) helped foil a third assassination plot against Musharraf. Two abortive attempts have been reported in the past few months. There is, however, no doubt in anyone's mind that Dawood is indisputably the number one criminal wanted by India, and what has rankled is that he has for long used Pakistan as a base. . . .

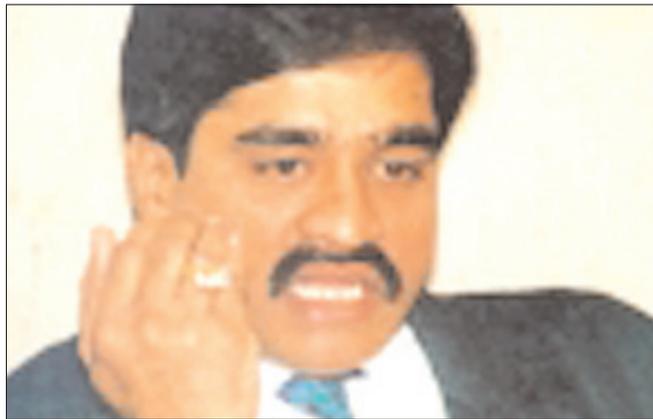
It is the nature of the crimes attributed to Dawood that place him at the top of India's most wanted wish list. He is the prime suspect in masterminding a series of bomb blasts that occurred in a single day in 1993 in Mumbai, the financial heart of India, killing 260 people and injuring 1,000. . . .

Dawood is a tool for Pakistan ISI security agencies to disturb India

Dawood leapfrogged into big time once he came into contact with the Pakistan Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) wing. The two shared a couple of interests. The ISI wanted a person who felt strongly for his community. In other words, someone who could foment communal trouble whenever the need arose. Two, Pakistan's territorial waters were a haven for gold smugglers. Dawood wanted his piece of action in that territory and an understanding was therefore reached. The ISI allegedly helped Dawood to flourish. The gold-runner became a mafia don and his gang came to be known as D-company in Mumbai. His net worth is said to be in billions and his 'business interests' are spread in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Dubai, Germany, France, the UK and several Muslim countries in Africa.

Ibrahim is widely believed to have masterminded the 1993 Bombay Bombings, a series of terrorist attacks carried out in the city on March 12 of the year. In 2003, the Indian and United States governments declared Ibrahim a "Global Terrorist". The then Deputy Prime Minister, described it as a major development and that India stands "vindicated". Ibrahim is currently on India's "Most wanted List".

The United States Department of Treasury has also designated Ibrahim as a terrorist as part of its international sanctions program - effectively forbidding U.S. financial entities from working with him and seizing assets believed to be under his control. The Department of



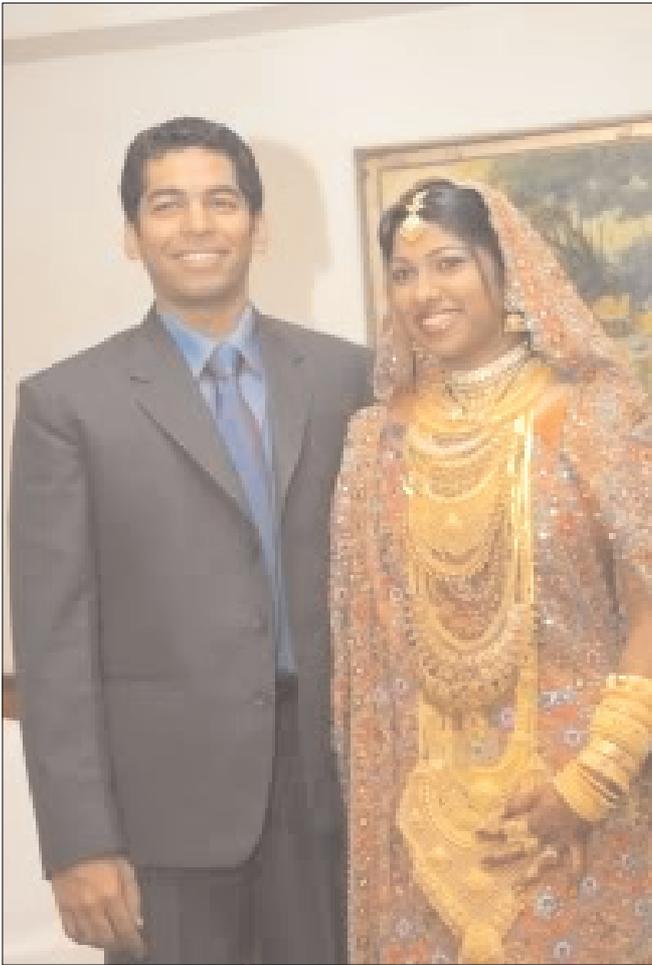
In a major blow to Ibrahim, ten members of his gang were arrested by Mumbai Crime Branch on November 21, 2006. They were extradited from the United Arab Emirates, from where they had been deported. Sources reported in India Today indicate that Dawood Ibrahim provided the logistics for the November 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Treasury keeps a fact sheet on Ibrahim which contains reports of his syndicate having smuggling routes from South Asia, the Middle-East and Africa shared with and used by terrorist organisation al-

Qaeda. The fact sheet also said that Ibrahim's syndicate is involved in large scale shipment of narcotics in the United Kingdom and Western Europe. He is also believed to have contacts with al-Qaeda leader Osama bin-Laden. In the late 1990s, Ibrahim traveled in Afghanistan under the Taliban's protection. The syndicate has consistently aimed to destabilize the Indian government through riots, terrorism and civil disobedience.

Washington added that they will request the United Nations to list Ibrahim "in pursuance of relevant Security Council resolutions". The UN listing will require that all UN member states freeze Ibrahim's assets and impose a travel ban. Juan Zarate, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, said that they are committed to identifying and attacking financial ties between terrorism and the underworld. Ibrahim is also suspected to have connections with terrorist organisations, and in 2002 was linked to the financing of increasing attacks in Gujarat by Lashkar-e-Toiba. New Delhi handed over to Islamabad a list of 38 most wanted criminals, including Ibrahim.

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IN FAMILY: DAWOOD'S DAUGHTER AND FORMER CRICKET STAR JAVED MIANDAD'S SON AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE

United States Deportation Resistance, In January 2002, a month after the Parliament attack, Indian officials visited the US, where they had meetings with Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice. A list of the Top 20 most-wanted terrorists in Pakistan was handed to the US. Ibrahim was wanted in connection with the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. Ajmal Amir Kasab, a gunman arrested for participation in the November 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 173 (164 civilians and security personnel and 9 terrorists), has confessed to authorities according to reports that Ibrahim's organization provided arms and explosives to the Lashkar-e-Toiba group that were used to carry out the attacks.

Pakistan denies any knowledge of his existence. Indian intelligence agencies, such as Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), believe that some of his addresses include House No. 37, 30th street, DHA, Karachi and White House, Near Saudi Mosque, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan, and is provided protection by Pakistani intelligence agency, the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). The issue of extradition of Dawood Ibrahim is one of the major hurdles in the frosty relations between India and Pakistan. Despite hectic efforts during the past many years, the government has failed to bring him back. The mere existence of Dawood proved a point that India is a soft state hence targeted repeatedly by terrorists across the borders. Indian security agencies may have

His inclusion in the list came as an embarrassment to Islamabad, especially as the US department in its reasons for doing so cited intelligence reports of his connection with global outlaws Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Toiba.

achieved some success in apprehending a few terrorists planning attacks in Mumbai recently, but investigators say the arrests are just a tip of the iceberg.

"The ISI has brought together underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Tiger Memon, and elements of the LeT, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Indian Mujahideen operatives such as Amir Reza Khan to create terror and mayhem throughout the country," an investigator said. The officer added the information was gleaned from inputs from central intelligence agencies and also through those involved in planning the terror attacks.

"Abdul Latif, who has been arrested, is a relative of Bashir Khan. The latter was involved in planting explosives in the first serial blasts in Mumbai in 1993. Since the 1993 bomb blasts had a bigger involvement of Tiger than Dawood, we believe Tiger has once again been roped in to create terror," the officer said.

Life isn't trigger-happy for Dawood Ibrahim any more. Once comfortably ensconced in Karachi, and enjoying the hospitality of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), his enemies are now ensuring he doesn't have a settled existence. Following the ISI's interception of a 'Get Bhai Plan' by his RAW-sponsored enemies to sneak into the port city and target him, the underworld don has been made to relocate his family to Islamabad where he now lives in a high-security zone under the ISI's covert protection. The 'Get Bhai Plan' was masterminded by Indian intelligence in collaboration with Dawood's main business rival and former right-hand man, Rajender Sadashiv Nikhalje alias Chhota Rajan.

His inclusion in the list came as an embarrassment to Islamabad, especially as the US department in its reasons for doing so cited intelligence reports of his connection with global outlaws Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Toiba. The department's fact-sheet on Dawood stated: "Dawood Ibrahim, son of a police constable, has financially supported Islamic militant groups working against India such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba. Information as recent as fall 2002 indicates that Ibrahim had been helping finance terrorist attacks in the Indian state of Gujarat by Lashkar-e-Toiba, the armed wing of Markaz Dawa Wal Irshad.

But the Bhai under protective umbrella of ISI is going strong, he is extensively used by ISI to plan all major nefarious operations in India. India is a growing economy with massive global attention and business interest hence the divisive forces will be pro-active to derail the growth story. It is noteworthy to mention that the nexus of ISI and D Company is patronized by all anti India forces indirectly to ensure that India remains a hot spot of terror activities to limit its growing stature at the global forum. India is presently served by the most efficient Home Minister in recent times. Mr P Chidambaram is managing the internal security with extreme clinical output though the Naxal front is looking quite gloomy. Indian naxal problem is related to the comprehensive systemic failure rather than the administrative failure but certainly India has witnessed better coordination between intel agencies and police network in the past few months. A nation of billion inhabitants are looking at the present security apparatus to bring and book India's most wanted criminal, surely the time lost in the process will deplete already receding hope of many countrymen in the efficiency and credibility of our national approach towards terrorism.

(With inputs from Air Marshal R C Bajpai, Mr Ashoka Kumar Thakur - Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Prakhara Misra - Political Editor, Veelaas Kengale - Mumbai

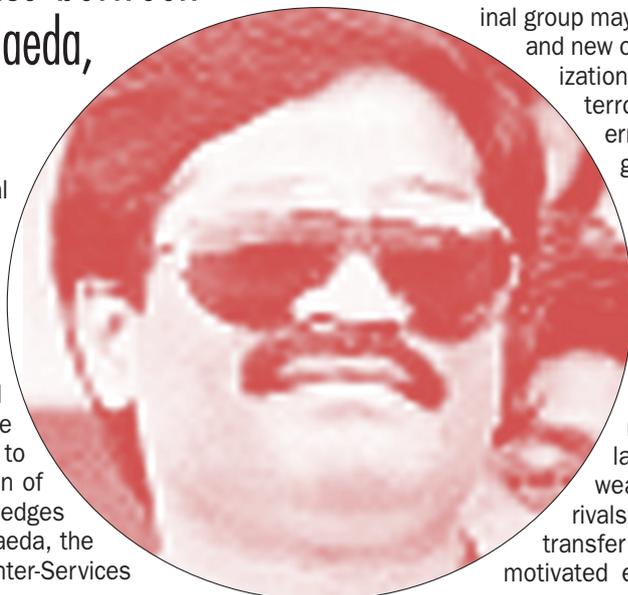


TERROR TRAIL: NOW THERE IS AN PROVEN LINK BETWEEN THE AL QAEDA (ABOVE) AND D COMPANY (BELOW)

UNHOLY NEXUS

Exposing unholy nexus between Dawood Ibrahim, al Qaeda, and the ISI

The US Congressional Research Service has issued a solid report on the nexus between criminal syndicates and terrorist groups. Entitled "International Terrorism and Transnational Crime: Security Threats, U.S. Policy, and Considerations for Congress," the report has a section devoted to Dawood Ibrahim, the criminal don of South Asia. The report acknowledges that Dawood is aligned with al Qaeda, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Pakistan's Inter-Services



Intelligence agency.

Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company Over time, a purely criminal group may transform, adopting political goals and new operational objectives. These organizations can form alliances with existing terrorist organizations or foreign governments to help achieve their strategic aspirations. Or they can initiate, direct, and perpetrate terrorist attacks without external assistance, resulting in the group becoming labeled a terrorist organization. Criminal syndicates often already possess the operational expertise needed to engage in terrorist acts. They may already employ terrorist specialists to conduct surveillance, transfer money, purchase weapons, build bombs, and eliminate rivals. A criminal organization can easily transfer this apparatus toward politically motivated ends. The result is either a truly



TERROR FOUNTAINHEAD: AN AL QAEDA TRAINING CAMP

evolved criminal-turned-terrorist group or a "fused" criminal-terrorist organization that seeks to develop ties with like-minded ideological movements. The use of criminal skills for terrorist ends raises the concern among some experts that terrorists may seek out criminals for recruitment or radicalization, believing them to be a higher skilled partner than non-criminals. A criminal's participation in terrorist activity, however, brings greater scrutiny from law enforcement agencies and politicians. Furthermore, a concentration on terrorist attacks could divert resources away from criminal endeavors, producing disillusionment and desertion among members who joined strictly for monetary reasons.

Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company, a 5,000-member criminal syndicate operating mostly in Pakistan, India, and the United Arab Emirates, provides an example of the criminal-terrorism "fusion" model. The U.S. Department of Treasury designated Ibrahim as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Executive Order 13224 in October 2003. In June 2006, President George W. Bush designated him, as well as his D-Company organization, as a Significant Foreign Narcotics Trafficker under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (hereafter "Kingpin Act"). D-Company is reportedly involved in several criminal activities, including extortion, smuggling, nar-

cotics trafficking, and contract killing. The organization has also reportedly infiltrated the Indian filmmaking industry, extorting producers, assassinating directors, distributing movies, and pirating films.

Ibrahim began as a criminal specialist in Mumbai, India, first as a low-level smuggler in the 1970s and later as the leader of a poly-crime syndicate. He formed a thriving criminal enterprise throughout the 1980s and became radicalized in the 1990s, forging relationships with Islamists, including Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Al Qaeda. D-Company's evolution into a true criminal-terrorist group began in response to the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Uttar Pradesh, India, in December 1992, and the subsequent riots that killed hundreds of Muslims. Outraged by the attacks on fellow Muslims and believing the Indian government acted indifferently to their plight, Ibrahim decided to retaliate. A heretofore secular organization with a sizable Hindu membership now assumed the objective of protecting India's Muslim minority. Reportedly with assistance from the

Pakistan government's intelligence branch, the Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI), D-Company launched a series of bombing attacks on March 12, 1993, killing 257 people. Following the attacks, Ibrahim moved his organization's headquarters to Karachi, Pakistan.

Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company provides an example of the criminal-terrorism "fusion" model. The U.S. Department of Treasury designated Ibrahim as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) under Executive Order 13224 in October 2003.



BLACK FRIDAY : 1993 BLASTS AND ITS INVESTIGATIONS FORCED DAWOOD TO FLEE INDIA

There, D-Company is believed to have both deepened its strategic alliance with the ISI and developed links to Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), which was designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) in 2001. During this time period, some say D-Company began to finance LeT's activities, use its companies to lure recruits to LeT training camps, and give LeT operatives use of its smuggling routes and contacts.⁶⁶ Press accounts have reported that Ibrahim's network might have provided a boat to the 10 terrorists who killed 173 people in Mumbai in November 2008. The U.S. government contends that D-Company has found common cause with Al Qaeda and shares its smuggling routes with that terrorist group. The United Nations has added Ibrahim to its list of individuals associated with Al Qaeda.

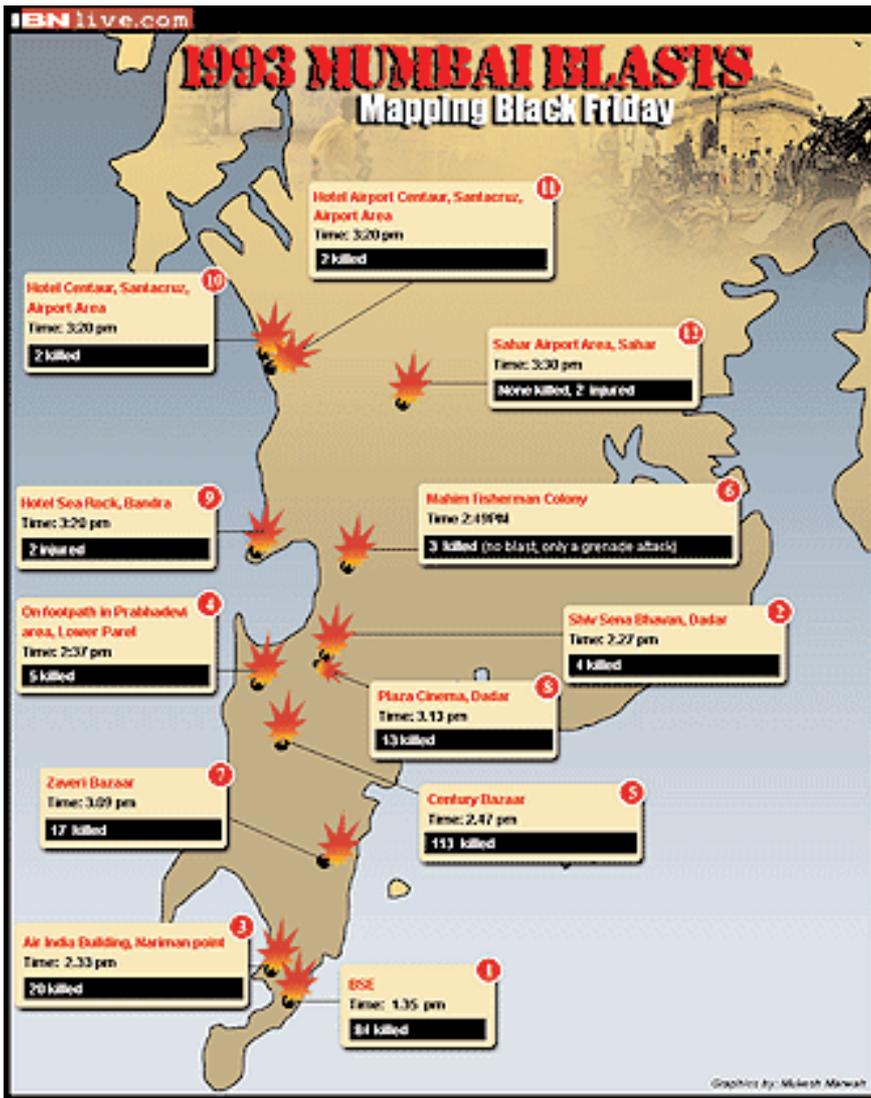
D-Company's seeming transformation from a profit-motivated criminal syndicate to a fusion crime-terror organization also altered its composition. Many of the Hindu members left the group after the 1993 bombings, with some forming a competing gang. While the organization reportedly collaborates with LeT and Al Qaeda, the more secular orientation of D-Company's leadership makes it unlikely that it will formally merge with those terrorist groups, analysts believe. Regardless, D-Company's own terrorist endeavors, its deep pockets, and its reported cooperation with LeT and Al Qaeda, present a credible threat to U.S. interests in South Asia, se-

curity experts assess. Lending his criminal expertise and networks to such terrorist groups, he is capable of smuggling terrorists across national borders, trafficking in weapons and drugs, controlling extortion and protection rackets, and laundering ill-gotten proceeds, including through the abuse of traditional value transfer methods, like hawala. By providing those organizations with funding, contacts, and logistical support, it amplifies their capabilities and durability.

Dawood Ibrahim's gang merger with the Lashkar-e-Toiba: Two Islamic Terrorist Organizations come together for Jihad against India - ISI reach will expand with D-Company merger'. The merger of Dawood Ibrahim's gang with the Lashkar-e-Toiba at the behest of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) has Indian security agencies worried since the underworld gang will expand the ISI's reach in the country. "Many members of Dawood's gang have been indoctrinated and trained in the use of weapons in the Bahawalpur centre of the LeT near Lahore. Funds are being raised

by investments in real estate and SRA projects in Mumbai and through smuggling of diesel and other essential commodities through the western coast spanning from Raigad to Mangalore along the Arabian Sea. We have warned Delhi about the smuggling being carried out by the Dawood gang with impunity," a security official said.

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Graphics by: Nilesh Mawani
COURTESY: IBNLIVE.COM

Asked why the ISI had roped in the D-Company in LeT activities, the official said, "The underworld's penetration in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu is very deep. By synergizing the D-gang with the LeT, the ISI's reach has increased manifold. An outfit like the Students' Islamic Movement of India could not have provided the kind of reach which Dawood's gang can provide."

Government sources brushed aside the hope in certain quarters that the installation of a democratically-elected government in Pakistan would result in a decrease in LeT inspired violence since the ISI, which is heavily infiltrated by fundamentalist elements, is known to pursue its own agenda. D-Company' is now officially part of the Lashkar-e-Toiba's terror network, with Pakistan's notorious Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) getting Dawood Ibrahim to merge his gang with the fundamentalist terror organisation as part of a game-plan to crank up its anti-India campaign.

Following the Mumbai blasts, Dawood along with his accomplices Chhota Shakeel and Tiger Memon fled to Pakistan. Pakistan has since shielded them from India and the new anti-terrorism sensitivities post-9/11 which saw Dawood being branded a global terrorist by the US...

Sources in Indian agencies tracking ISI's moves confirmed the coming together of the two outfits and the danger that it poses to India. "The underworld gang and the Lashkar jihadis have been knocked into a single entity and this has

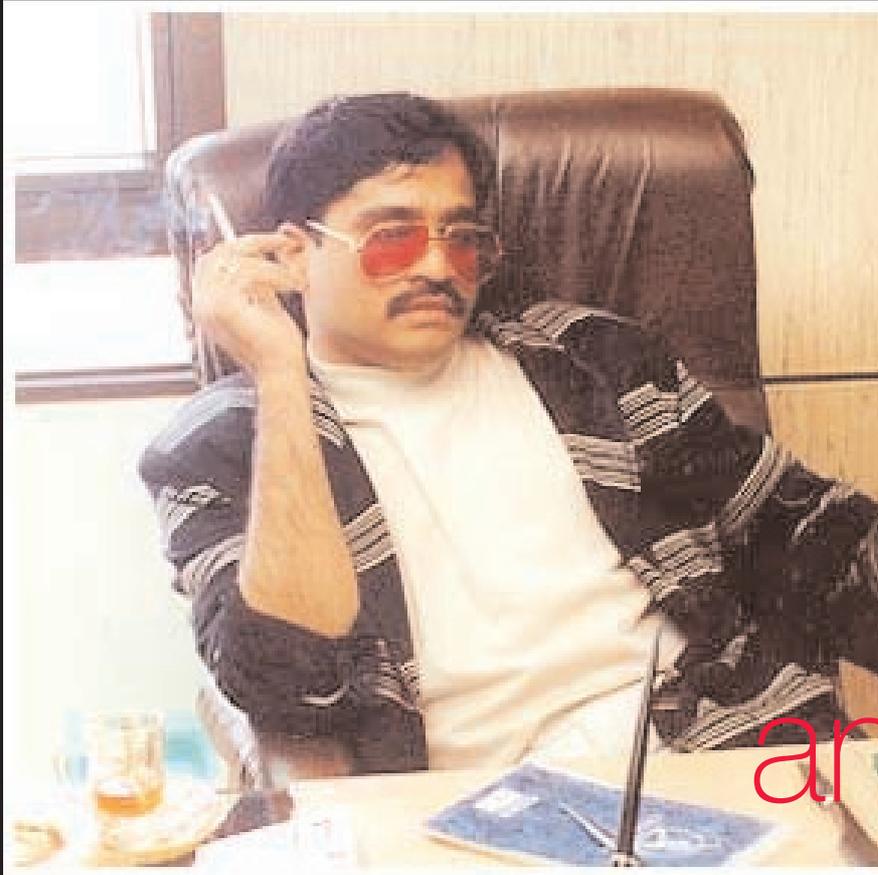
serious implications for India's internal security," a senior intelligence official. ISI's links with D-Company are old, going back to 1993 when Pakistan's external intelligence agency used Dawood and his henchmen to execute the March 12 terror attack on Mumbai in what marked the first instance anywhere of serial bombings. There has since been a shift in the dynamics of ISI-Dawood equations, reducing D-Company from being a useful ally to a group of individuals dependent on ISI to escape international law agencies.

Following the Mumbai blasts, Dawood along with his accomplices Chhota Shakeel and Tiger Memon fled to Pakistan. Pakistan has since shielded them from India and the new anti-terrorism sensitivities post-9/11 which saw Dawood being branded a global terrorist by the US. But the hospitality has a tag attached to it: complete dependence for survival on ISI, which does not mind displaying its leverage vis-a-vis the once ruthless gang. The merger will, inevitably, transform the character of Dawood's gang, which did not display any communal tendency before the serial bombings aimed against members of a particular community.

In fact, many of their business partners were non-Muslims like Raj Shetty. Chhota Rajan was also a senior member of the gang before splitting in protest against the serial blasts triggered by Dawood, Shakeel and the Memons. "The serial blasts were essentially a retaliation for the January 1993 communal riots. But now there is a qualitative change with D-Company becoming part of a jihadi organisation like the LeT. Earlier, this gang's members were not religiously indoctrinated, but now they are. The motivation now is not money, but religion," a senior official said.

The joining of ranks with Lashkar, one of the most dangerous terrorist outfits which treats "liberation" of large tracts of India from "Hindu domination" as its religious obligation, can help ISI to further its subversive agenda. Stints with Lashkar camps can morph Dawood's band of urban gangsters into well-armed and jihad-driven terrorists. On the other hand, Lashkar benefits immensely from collaboration with D-Company which continues to attract recruits and has acquired financial muscle by venturing into mainstream commercial enterprises without letting go of its original money spinner, smuggling.

— OEMCL New Services with inputs from our Dubai Bureau



The
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Co:
An
analysis

C Pal Singh, Retd IPS Officer

Dawood Ibrahim, a known major drug trafficker, a don who is wanted by India for a number of heinous and barbaric crimes, serial blasts, Mumbai Bombing of 26/11 and recent terrorists attacks in Pune is being protected by ISI of Pakistan. One of the Foreign Policy Journals had also reported some time back that there are sufficient indications to the effect that the CIA had also had interest at one time, in preventing Dawood Ibrahim being handed over to India.

In fact, Dawood had once attracted the attention of American secret agents, who were supporting the Islamic mujahideen in their battle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Dawood reportedly had assisted a number of U.S. deep-cover operations in funneling money to the then Afghan rebels via casinos in Kathmandu, Nepal. Thus, for some time the CIA was not probably interested that Dawood should be handed over to India.

Sometime back, a press release of the US Department said: "Dawood Ibrahim, an Indian crime lord, has found common cause with Al Qaeda, sharing his smug-

In fact, Dawood had once attracted the attention of American secret agents, who were supporting the Islamic mujahideen in their battle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Dawood reportedly had assisted a number of U.S. deep-cover operations in funneling money to the then Afghan rebels via casinos in Kathmandu, Nepal.

gling routes with the terror syndicate and funding attacks by Islamic extremists aimed at destabilizing the Indian government. A fact sheet attached to the press release also said "Ibrahim's syndicate is involved in large-scale shipments of narcotics in the UK and Western Europe. The syndicate's smuggling routes from

South Asia, the Middle East and Africa are shared with Osama Bin Laden and his terrorist network.

The US governments has also now assessed that D-Company has a common cause with Al Qaeda and shares their smuggling routes. The analysts also believe that though Ibrahim's gang may not formally merge with the radical terrorist groups, yet its own terrorist Endeavour, having deep pockets, and cooperation with the LeT and Al Qaeda can create a substantial threat to US interests in South Asia.

Despite the strong directives of the UNSC, some time back, its member-countries like Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continue to flout its policy decision & the International community is not seriously acting against them for the violations. The perpetrators of 26/11 Mumbai attack were clandestinely transported to Pakistan by the members of mafia group of Dawood, where they were given training in the camps run by the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HUM), now a member of Bin Laden's. Islamic Front and sent back to Mumbai for the dastardly attacks. Pakistani explosives and detonators and timers of

US origin from the ISI stocks were reportedly supplied to them for this action. Unfortunately Dawood Ibrahim one of the most wanted terrorists continues to remain at large.

Extensive foreign sponsorship of terrorism by some countries, encouragement or toleration by authorities of one country of terrorist activities in another country of organized activities calculated to carry out terrorist acts in the another state, need to be stopped in the war against terrorism.

Terrorist organizations always like to have alliances with existing terrorist groups, and drug mafia to achieve their strategic aspirations. They can initiate, direct, and perpetrate terrorist attacks without even external assistance. Lashkar e Toiba (LeT) is benefiting immensely due to its collaboration with D-Company of Dawood which continues to attract recruits and has the required financial muscle. Dawood and his allies in the D-company have ventured into mainstream commercial enterprises without letting go of its original money spinner, smuggling and Hawala and are a great asset to Pakistan based terrorist organizations.

As on date, the D-Company' is almost an official part of the Lashkar-e-Toiba's terror network. The Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is interested to get Dawood gang merge with the fundamentalist terror organization as part of a game plan against India - posing great threat to India.

Though the arrest of his aides Hamza and Mufti Obaidulla was a setback for the D-gang yet that Dawood's company has persisted with the task of rebuilding its network in India.

Earlier, terror-related operations by the criminals were used to be limited to providing funds and logistics to the radicals. However, of late the Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence has specifically directed the underworld gang and criminals to handle terror plots in various parts of India. The modules of Lashkar-e-Tayiba and Indian Mujahideen have gradually gone underground as these modules were unable to operate as freely as they used to earlier after the arrest of several key persons of these organizations by the Indian security forces.

The ISI seems to have perceived that the focus of Indian Security agencies on the underworld operatives was much less compared to the terror modules of SIMI, Lashkar-e-Taiba and IM.

The interrogation of these criminals turned radicals may not yield any substantial result, as they would be fresh in



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the business. The funding may come both from UAE and Pakistan.

This would be indeed dangerous as the D-gang network within India is far larger compared to the IM or the Lashkar network. Though, their men are strongest in Maharashtra. Yet, there has been a major expansion and rise in Lucknow, Kerala and Mangalore also.

According to sources Dawood is also acting as number one espionage agent of Pakistan. His men in India particularly in Mumbai can help him to get whatever information he needs for Pakistan.

Now when Washington and London have agreed with India's legal claim on Dawood and have lifted the longstanding, so called "official protection" accorded to him for his past services to Western intelligence agencies, it is high time for India to press for Dawood extradition to India. As Dawood knows too much about darker secrets of some western diplomats in South Asia and the Gulf, they could scuttle the extradition of Dawood to India. He was reported to have been whisked away to a safe house in Quetta, near the tribal area of Waziristan some time back.

India needs to take advantage of the opening provided by the US by designating him as a global terrorist and should ensure through various diplomatic channels that Pakistan does not again wriggle out of its obligations under the UNSC Resolution 1373. Dawood is professional on many counts and therefore he is a formidable adversary. Some in Pakistan's military intelligence agency

say that Dawood is dead (or was killed in July). This version is more and less a variation of bin Laden story.

The new security architecture of India designed by the present Home Minister is proposed to be brought in to place within a year. However, so far, the inadequacies and "crisis of capacities" remains only partially addressed. The gaps between the intelligence, enforcement and administrative apparatus are proposed to be bridged in the new architecture. The proposed new architecture revolves around the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), and the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) already provided by the Intelligence Bureau (IB). This structure proposes to stream line and take out the security system out of the prevailing institutional paralysis, it has been suffering so far.

The nefarious activities of criminal gangs - particularly the organized gangs like 'D' company, whose resources and contacts in India are proposed to be used by the ISI to create lawlessness, panic and chaos in India, need to be monitored on day to day basis. Further, the need of technology to ensure instant communication and quick response can not be under estimated. Any worthwhile security system has to take into account the 'invisible plans and moves of the hidden enemy' to pre-empt the same. The intelligence is always the main tool for any good security. This tool needs to be sharpened and the response to the same in a federal system has to be nationally coordinated.

'American double standards on war on terror exposed'



JO BIRING SAYS THAT AMERICA'S PLEDGE AGAINST TERROR IS NOTHING BUT A FARCE

Pakistani-American David Coleman Headley, accused of plotting the 26/11 Mumbai attacks at the behest of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and conspiring to target a Danish newspaper, pleaded guilty to all terror charges before a US court in Chicago. As on expected lines in a plea bargain, Headley has been assured of no extradition to India in return. Also there will be no death penalty for Headley. But Indian authorities can access him in the United States and can question him, The deal agreed on between Headley and US prosecutors requires that he may have to testify in a foreign court while in US custody. Now the broader question is the use of such interrogation when Indian government cannot punish a person for the heinous crime committed and confessed by him.

A 36-page plea agreement containing a detailed recitation of Headley's partic-

The agreement says that "defendant agrees that, when directed by the US attorney's office, he will fully and truthfully testify in any foreign judicial proceedings held in the US by way of deposition, video conferencing or letters rogatory. Defendant agrees to the postponement of his sentencing until after the conclusion of his interrogation."

ipation in terror conspiracies was presented when he changed his plea to guilty. The agreement says that "defendant agrees that, when directed by the US attorney's office, he will fully and truthfully testify in any foreign judicial proceedings held in the US by way of deposition, video conferencing or letters rogatory. Defendant agrees to the postponement of his sentencing until after the conclusion of his interrogation." This means Indian authorities can question Headley in the United States. So Headley could have to testify in the 26/11 trial currently underway in Mumbai.

As the plea bargain agreed on does not foreclose the option of India getting access to David Headley, the ball is now in India's court to take advantage of this opportunity and question Headley directly though with a rider that he will not be punished by Indian courts for the crime committed against Indians. Headley



TERROR SIGNATURE: HEADLEY'S AMERICAN PASSPORT

admitting to all the charges on 26/11 only confirms what India has been maintaining that the terror attacks were plotted and carried out by handlers in Pakistan.

In its dossiers to Pakistan, India has named several terrorists including Hafiz Saeed, Muzammil Bhat, Abu Hamza, Abu Kafa, and Usman. India also wants Ilyas Kashmiri, an Al-Qaida commander hiding in Waziristan. Headley's guilty plea also strengthens the belief of India's intelligence and investigating agencies that he visited different places in India as part of a larger terror plot.

Headley also won't be allowed extradition to Denmark and Pakistan and there will be no trial for Headley. "The defendant shall not be extradited to the Republic of India, the Kingdom of Denmark, or the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, respectively, for any offenses for which he has been convicted in accordance with this plea," the plea agreement said.

Speculation has turned into reality: Headley's guilty plea was indeed a bargain tactic for a lighter sentence. In return

Headley's guilty plea also strengthens the belief of India's intelligence and investigating agencies that he visited different places in India as part of a larger terror plot. Headley also won't be allowed extradition to Denmark and Pakistan and there will be no trial for him.

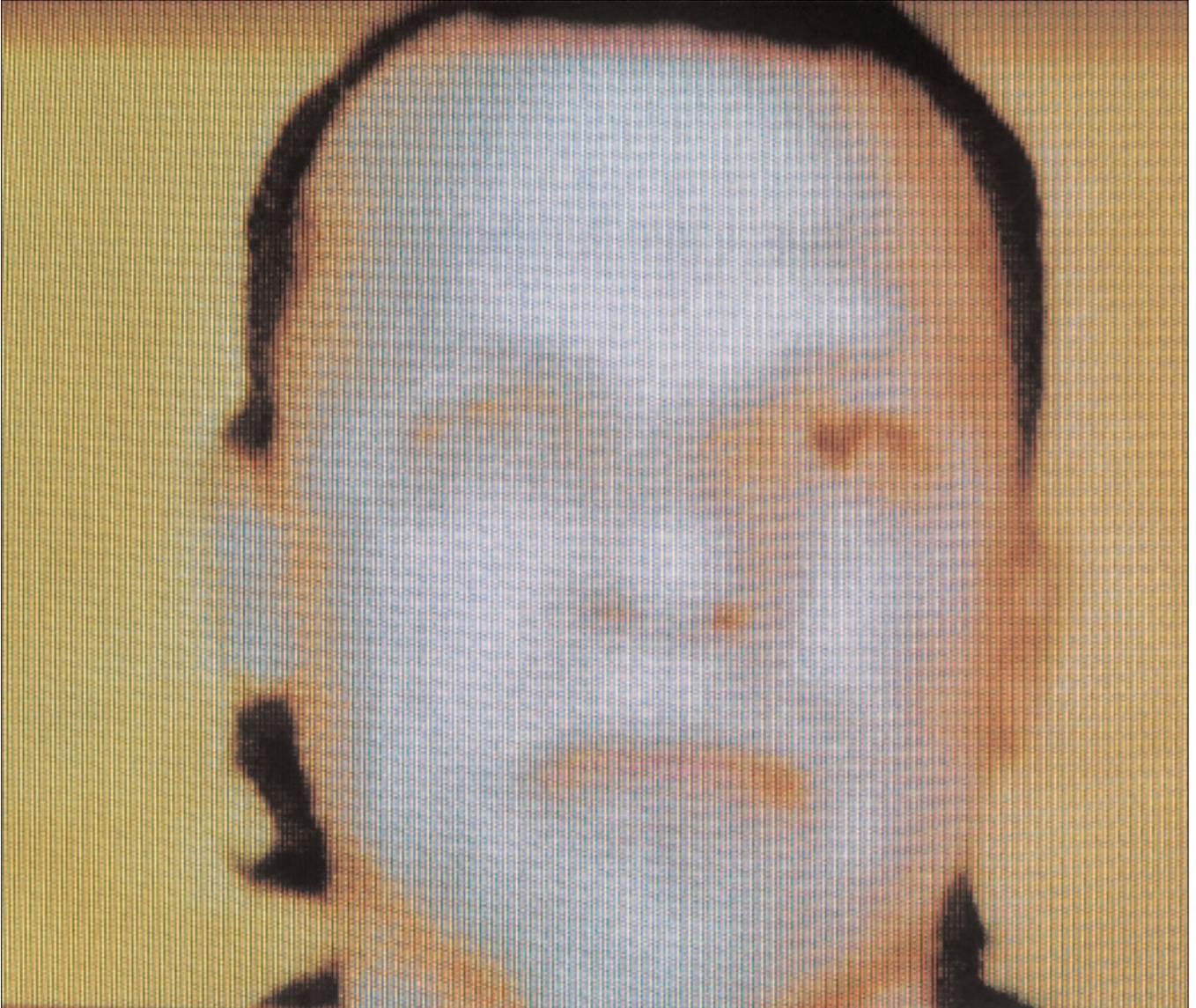
he will give information that can unravel the larger terror plot. What it actually does is strengthens the belief that Headley was once an American agent who turned rogue and joined terrorists, and the US will go to any length to prevent him from spilling the beans.

India is more suspicious because

Headley was on the FBI radar for over a year before his arrest. The US did not share this intelligence. Headley was under surveillance a month before 26/11. Still no information was shared, even though the FBI had details on potential terror strike on Indian hotels. The worst: Headley visited India after 26/11, a visit the US was aware of and yet did not tell India.

Besides, case files show that back in 1998, Headley was a heroin smuggler who got off lightly after he agreed to be an undercover agent for US Drug Enforcement Administration. Sources say, sometime during this stint, Headley became a double agent and started working for the Lashkar-e-Toiba.

But with access to Headley, India should now be able to piece together the larger terror jigsaw puzzle of the subcontinent. At the 26/11 court in Mumbai, where terrorist Ajmal Kasab and others are being tried, Headley is just one of many accused. His absence will not stall or weaken the ongoing trial. And without



FACE OF TERROR: A TV GRAB OF HEADLEY

Headley, India will not be able to piece together, the stifling patchwork quilt of terror stitched across the subcontinent. So the little respite is a welcome relief for Indian authorities battling terrorism with cosmetic support or without any external support.

Moreover it is the duty of Indian government to clearly inform US law enforcement agencies that their double standards in dealing with so called war on terror will ultimately hit them harder. The innocent ordinary peace loving citizen of world's strongest country have suffered tremendous blows post 9/11 incident and the faulty macro policy of their government of selective target mapping and too much of cunningness in selecting "appropriate human resource" will further harm US interest, both in their country and globally.

The US is only interested in protecting their own "Sleeper cells" in Asia and only God knows how many more David Headley's are in place to "Start acts of terrorism" so that the US can march into countries under the pretence of fighting and helping the suffering country from Terrorism when in fact they themselves have used their own trained pawns/undercover agents (David Headley's) to create more fear and unrest. The US is "fanning the flames of Terrorism" and it is plain to see in this David Headley case as One of their own undercover former

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DEA /CIA agents was tracked/caught by the focused and highly professional Indian Intelligence services with ALL the evidence.

The PURE facts, logical Questions are as follows:

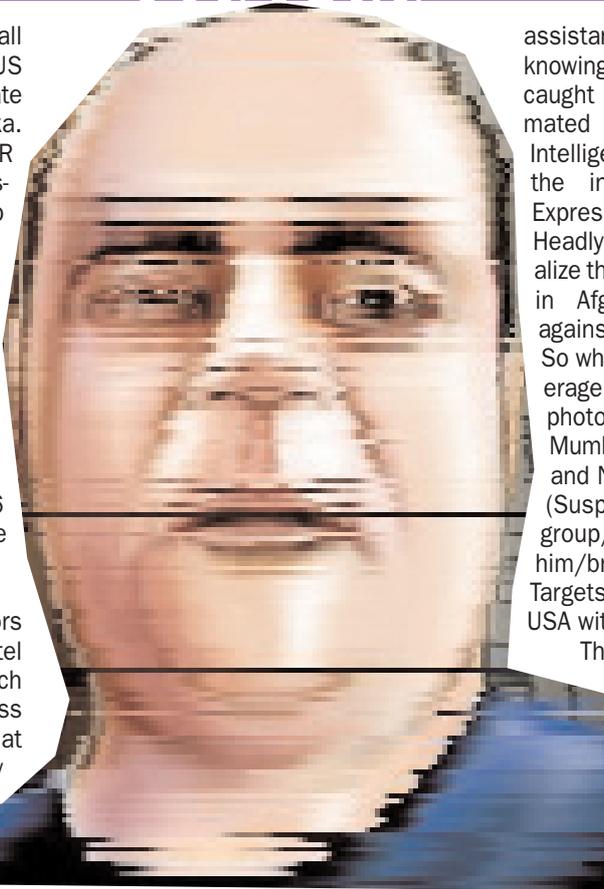
1. David Headley changed his name from "Sayed Daood Gilani" in 2006 - He could only have changed his name/identification and passport details in the US "SO"...WHY Were the US authorities NOT suspicious that a Muslim name was being

changed into an English name for all I.D Documents??? Why did they (The US Authorities CIA/FBI etc...) not interrogate and question Sayed Daood Gilani (a.k.a. David Headley) MORE thoroughly/OR stopped him boarding the air flights especially when he was flying to Pakistan/India where Westerners were more likely to be targeted and threatened?!? It makes NO difference IF the US authorities were tracking David Headley because they did not alert the Indian Intelligence services in "Precise Time mode" as that would have saved the innocent deaths of 175 people, including six Americans!! Does that mean that the deaths of 6 Americans are more valuable than the deaths of 169 Indians?!

2. The US sent there investigators into India immediately after the Taj Hotel terrorist act for only two reasons which are as follows: 1. - To clear up the mess and to see/divert any evidence so that there pawn (David Headley)was safely back in their hands before full interrogation was conducted

by the Indian Authorities . 2. - To show the rest of the World and media that the US was a "knight in white shining armor" coming to the rescue of India as the US used "Information Warfare" with misleading stories/accusations, false promises and "fanning the flames of hatred" between India and Pakistan so that they "The USA" were with India in the fight against terror. This "USA Info Warfare Tactic" would make Pakistan authorities feel under more pressure to allow US/NATO Troops into the country so that the US could continue their war offensive in Afghanistan and Warizstan. All this US noise about "Fighting Terrorism...We are on India's Side against this shocking terrorist act...etc..." Would also make/made Pakistan more scared that the USA and India would be crossing into their country as a "combined" army to fight Terrorism. It was a huge publicity boast for the US and their pretentious "War against Terror" as the World Media was covering the story.

The facts AND Truth once again: THE USA HAS NO RIGHT TO HOLD/QUESTION OR SENTENCE "David Headley" when he has committed the shocking terrorist acts in India on Indian Soil. ONLY INDIA HAS THIS RIGHT AFTER "FULL" INTERROGATION SO THAT INDIA CAN SAFELY STOP AND PROTECT ANYMORE ACTS BY THIS AMERICAN TERRORIST AND HIS/OTHER AMERICAN TERRORIST



assistance OR a little "False" assistance knowing that there man was going to be caught soon because they under-estimated the expertise of the Indian Intelligence services. A question for all the intelligent readers of Opinion Express is this: "If you or I were David Headly would we not understand and realize that it is the USA that is waging war in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq against Muslims and Islam NOT INDIA? So why would this smarter than the average person (because he planned and photographed all the targets in Mumbai) commit a terrorist act in India and NOT the USA???? Even his links (Suspected) to the Pakistani terror group/groups would have advised him/brain washed him to hit USA Targets as he could fly in and out of the USA without any suspicions!!

The Indian Government and authorities should push 100% in bringing David Headley back to India immediately to face charges and be given the justice he truly deserves...and we all know without any shadow of a doubt what that ultimate justice should be. INDIA HAS TO SHOW THE "WHOLE

"IF" India does NOT show it's Peaceful Strength now on this matter of having David Headley back in India to face charges than it paints a very sad and weak picture of India to China and the rest of Asia that India cannot even bring back and convict a USA Homegrown Terrorist.

WORLD" THAT it does not tolerate interference and it will never quietly sit by listening to feeble stories and excuses. INDIA IS BRAVE, STRONG, WISE AND INTELLIGENT ENOUGH IN THE 21ST CENTURY TO HANDLE IT'S OWN LEGAL SYSTEMS AND TO SHOW THE INDIAN PUBLIC WHY INDIA IS LAW ABIDDING IN MATTERS OF EQUAL JUSTICE EVEN IF YOU ARE A FOREIGNER!

A Quote "Divide and rule, a sound motto. Unite and lead, a better one" Author: Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe. India IS GOING TO Unite and Lead Peacefully AS WELL AS truthfully unlike many other countries in the World. "IF" India does NOT show it's Peaceful Strength now on this matter of having David Headley back in India to face charges than it paints a very sad and weak picture of India to China and the rest of Asia that India cannot even bring back and convict a USA Homegrown Terrorist. This David Headley matter is India's Reputation on the line in front of the whole world. India has to stand up to the USA with peaceful request and without any hesitancy. CHINA WOULD NEVER EVER HAVE ALLOWED THIS SITUATION OF DAVID HEADLEY BEING GIVEN TO THE USA... NEVER!

(Writer is internationally known security expert based in North America. He can be contacted at jbirring@worldhomeland-security.com)

CELLS IN OUR GREAT COUNTRY INDIA! David Headley is MORE of a Risk to India/Asia Security than the USA SO why the hell is the USA being the Judge and Jury of who questions him and who sentences him?!?!? That would be understandable IF David Headley had plans or blue prints in his possession with USA Targets and Cities that he was gathering/photographing entry/exit points for terrorist activities on USA Soil. David Headley is a USA Pawn/agent/USA Homegrown Terrorist and is not stupid knowing that his "Ultimate handlers and masters" are protecting him because the expert work by the Indian Intelligence agencies captured him without any USA



Better safe than sorry

Safety And Security Tips For The International Traveler In Alien Lands

The current world situation of increased terrorism threats against innocent people irrespective of their country, culture or religious beliefs safety is a big issue for all international travelers, regardless of where they are traveling, their age, and how well traveled they are. Every time you travel internationally you are exposing yourself to

the risks that are commonly associated with being a tourist such as theft, scams, even fraud and now also the added risk of terrorism acts. Knowing where you are traveling, what the customs and risks associated with the area are, and planning ahead for your safety and security will help you enjoy your international travel as much as possible. We have to bear in

Mind that in the Western Airport Security Checks the Colour "Brown" is certainly more discriminated against which is certainly unfair.

Research the Area You will Be Traveling
When you are thinking about traveling internationally, you should learn as much as you can about the area. The Internet is an outstanding tool for learning about the

good and bad areas of the country or specific area you'll be visiting. Reading the personal account of other people, tour guides, or people who specialize in the area you are going to will allow you to plan ahead for your safety, and stay in locations that will offer you the most security. The Internet will also address transportation concerns, good and not so good lodging, and the like.

If you plan on using public transportation on your international travels, you'll want to pay close attention to the information about security and safety in this area. Subways and public rail systems can be quite confusing, and tourists can end up being victimized because they don't know where they are going, and there is often a lack of security in these areas. Know what you are getting into before you travel, so you can plan accordingly. Also, when you make hotel arrangements ask about security available and the safety of the surrounding areas, so you can decide whether it'll be safe to go out on your own after dark and such.

If you are going to an area and you cannot find much information on it, you might want to check with your travel agent or your country's Embassy in that area for safety and security information. You can never be overly

prepared for such concerns, so do your homework and know what you can about the area, as that will add to your safety.

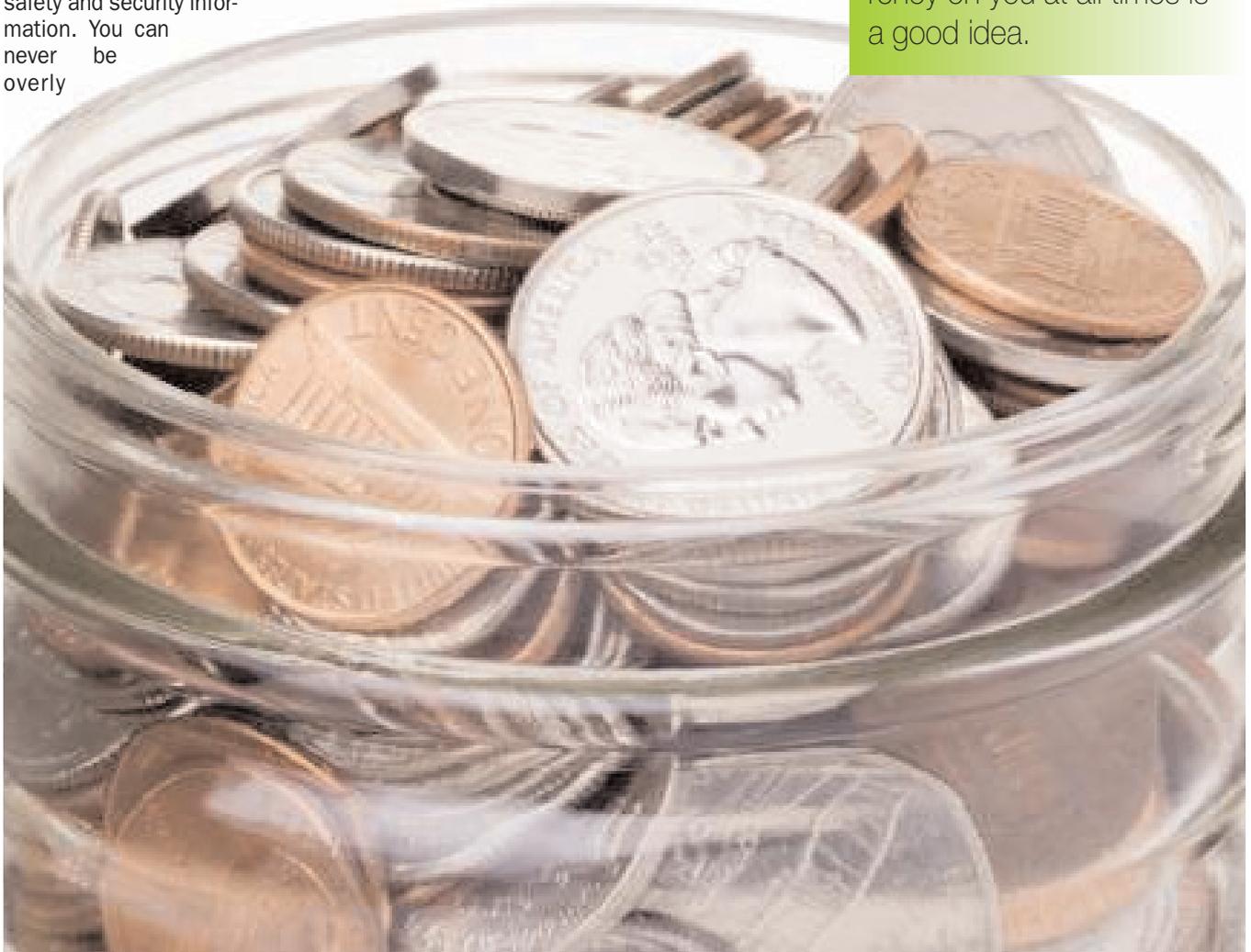
Have "A" Plan for Safe Handling of Money

It doesn't matter where you travel, you should be careful with your money. When you are traveling internationally, you'll find that many of the locals consider you wealthy. This assumption makes you a prime target for those who are in need of money, or who have a passion for theft. Wearing a money belt and keeping a limited amount of local currency on you at all times is a good idea. A purse isn't usually a good idea, as something running by you can take your purse and be gone with your money and personal affects before you can scream. A money belt can be purchased at luggage stores as well as stores that specialize in traveling, purses, wallets, and the link.

When you do cash traveler's checks or

your currency for the local currency, be discreet about it. The more attention you draw to yourself and the amount of money you have on yourself, the more likely you are to be victimized. So, have a plan before you travel as to where you'll keep your money, and the system you'll use to exchange currencies, if applicable.

It doesn't matter where you travel, you should be careful with your money. When you are traveling internationally, you'll find that many of the locals consider you wealthy. This assumption makes you a prime target for those who are in need of money, or who have a passion for theft. Wearing a money belt and keeping a limited amount of local currency on you at all times is a good idea.





Tips when traveling with your laptop

Your laptop was probably a big investment and you'd like to keep it as long as possible, providing that it allows you to continue to do the things that you need to do. Because your laptop is a big part of your life and was such a huge investment, you'll want to be sure to protect your asset when you are traveling. Many people who have laptops consider them and every day, ordinary item, and they don't protect their laptop as much as they should. When you travel your laptop can easily be stolen or damaged if you don't take the appropriate steps to secure your belongings.

The following are tips to help you travel safely and efficiently with your laptop:

1: If you are debating whether you should carry your laptop onto the plane with you or check it, you need not debate anymore. You should definitely carry your laptop onto the plane with you. The airline baggage handlers expect items such as clothing to be stored within the luggage that they put on the plane, so if you pack your expensive laptop it will get tossed around and it definitely won't be treated like the fragile object that it is.

2: As you probably know, people traveling with laptop computers are usually required to turn it on and show that it is nothing more than a working computer. If you would rather not be slowed down by this visual security inspection, you can actually anticipate this and turn your computer on before you get to the security checkpoint. Before you leave the house in the morning consider turning on your laptop and simply leave it in suspend mode so that you can open it up, it'll come on, and you'll be cleared to go to your gate. It's amazing how much time your laptop can take to power up when you are running late for your plane. Just be sure that you plan accordingly and you charge the battery before leaving home because if you are requested to turn it on at the Airport Security Check in than there will be further unfair suspicions.

Know Your Resources

Most international travelers do not intend on getting into trouble when they are traveling, but it happens. A lot of the time, the trouble is innocent, but because of cultural differences Westerners often breaks laws without knowing it. Before you travel, you should have your Embassy or Consulate information for the area that you'll be traveling to. Your Country's Embassy or Consulate can act on your behalf if you find yourself in legal trouble of any sort. Whether you need a lawyer or just help with clarifying the law, the Embassy will likely be able to help you. If your passport is lost or stolen, you'll also need to report that to your Embassy or Consulate. Having this information with you will enable you to protect yourself should local laws or customs get the best of you.

Security, Customs and your own Voice Recorder

If you are traveling internationally (Especially to the West from the East) you'll likely have to go through the customs routine twice PLUS More security luggage searches due to the Terrorism risks and added security, one on the way out and on the way back as well. Have any documentation you need for your valuables to prove that you traveled with these items so that you don't have to pay a tax or fee on them on your way back. As annoying as the customs process can be, remember that this process is one that keeps the public safe. Especially in today's world of increased threats.



3: When you are waiting for your flight or even in flight, you should try not to draw attention to yourself and your laptop. If it's a very crowded boarding area or flight, you might not feel comfortable turning on your laptop as other people peer over your shoulder. If another traveler expresses interest in your laptop, you can be polite but try to keep it brief. Many people ask questions and watch people with laptops waiting for the most opportune time to steal it from them. You shouldn't assume that everyone out there that expresses interest in your laptop wants to steal it, but it happens more often than you would think so it's better not to draw attention to your laptop or yourself while using it.

4: Another good rule that you should have for yourself when traveling with your laptop is not to let it out of your sight. Even if you have to use the restroom or are just running across the way to grab a cup of coffee, you should not leave your laptop. The only exception to this rule is if you are traveling with someone that you know and trust, but remind him or her also that your laptop can never be left alone, not even for a moment. Many people believe that they can ask the nice woman or man sitting next to them to "keep an eye" on their belongings while they make their way to the restroom or that cup of coffee, only to come back and find that nice person and their laptop is gone. It's better to be safe than sorry, so don't let your investment out of your sight..

5: When you are traveling with your laptop you should always keep your laptop case or bag locked, if possible. While someone might not be able to gain access to your laptop without you noticing, they may be able to steal other equipment, documentation, or other items that you keep in your laptop case. When you lock your case, there is no way for them to sneak off with these items without your knowledge, unless they are able to get away with the whole case. You'd be surprised at how sneaky well-practiced thieves are, and you just wouldn't want to take a chance with your items. A locked case will also prevent someone from putting something into your bag that you do not want there.

Your laptop is likely a huge asset to you for business and personal reasons, and when you are traveling it's up to you to protect this asset. Generally, you won't have a problem with people trying to steal or damage your personal belongings, but it only takes that one person who is able to catch you unaware to have your laptop



Things to remember

- 1. Do not keep anything important on it**
- 2. Have anything you want/need backed up**
- 3. Passwords protect everything you can on the machine**
- 4. File a report with the airline immediately**



missing or damaged. So, take care, plan ahead, and be aware so that your travels with your laptop are as pleasant as possible.

With the increased Security checks at Airports in the West due to Terrorism threats in the west there are many more new security precautions in place at Airports. It may be frustrating but ultimately it is helping and saving all innocent people as best as possible. WHS Group/WHS COE advises you to Plan ahead, be aware and you'll likely come home safe and secure.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact WHS team and we look forward to answering. For further details in regards to the specialized tactical solutions we can offer your family and businesses throughout the world please view the World Homeland Security Group Inc website at www.worldhomelandsecurity.com and please email sales@worldhomelandsecurity.com



2G scam: After Kani, will it be Ambani, Tata?

2G scam has reached phase II, with the Supreme Court ordering DMK heiress and Member of Parliament Kanimozhi's arrest in the 2G spectrum scam, the burning question now is: What next? Will corporate chieftains Anil Ambani, Prashant Ruia and Ratan Tata be prosecuted too?

The answer to this million-dollar question may lie behind certain recent developments. Shahid Usman Balwa, Swan Telecom promoter and an accused in the 2G scam case, on May 18 took objection to the Central Bureau of Investigation naming Ratan Tata as a 'victim' in the scam thus granting him the benefit of the doubt. Balwa alleged before the trial court that the Tata Group chairman was one of

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the biggest beneficiaries in the allocation of radio waves and came forward with many arguments and produced correspondence between Tata and the prime accused and former telecom minister A Raja in support of this claim. This is a very interesting development, according to legal eagles handling the case on behalf of the various accused in the case.

Already, last month in the Supreme Court, petitioner Prashant Bhushan presented a note on the direct involvement of Reliance Communications chairman Anil Ambani, Tata Teleservices chairman Ratan Tata, and Loop Telecom chief Prashant Ruia. If the other accused too, like Balwa, start pressing for Ambani, Tata and Ruia's prosecution, the buck

will have to stop somewhere and someone will have to answer why they should not be prosecuted and arrested, says a senior lawyer appearing for the arrested accused in the 2G scam.

It is when lawyer Prashant Bhushan and politician Subramanyam Swamy took the case vigorously in the apex court and into the media, things moved. There is no doubt that the rejection of Kanimozhi's bail application was one of the great newsy moments that rarely comes. In fact, Swamy is confident that both Anil Ambani & Ratan Tata will be prosecuted very soon for the serious crime.

In rarest of rare cases we see, in this corruption-ridden country, a powerful person's daughter going to Tihar jail. Moreover, the charge is also so fantastic that the millions of middle-class people can never fathom it, properly. Most Indians believe that powerful people are not fined even for traffic violations so Kanimozhi's imprisonment is a phenomenon. One is gasping for words to describe that the person who is able to take Rs 200 crore bribe can, really become so powerless that nothing could help her to avoid going jail. That's the might of the law.

If after detection of the 2G spectrum case, the system is not changed to ensure that public property is not looted in favour of a selected few then what's the use of this tamasha of a powerful politician's daughter going to jail? And, equally importantly, if the charges of corruption against Raja and Kanimozhi are not proved in the court of law then this moment will end up in a national tragedy. Many lawyers are privately saying that it's possible that this case may face the fate of the Jain Hawala case, in which the prime accused was not convicted.

As of today, the CBI is not totally independent. Until the Jan Lokpal bill comes and prepares the case for a totally independent CBI, the 2-G spectrum case will remain in realm of danger of going the Jain Hawala way. At the end of day, let us accept that it's too early to say that, in the India of 2011, the system can humble the rich and powerful.

Bhushan argued before the court that the expert panel is required to nail the real bigwigs involved in the case.

Explaining why Anil Ambani should be prosecuted by the CBI, Bhushan's note to the Supreme Court pleads that 'the CBI has filed two chargesheets in the 2G scam case. The first chargesheet established the criminal culpability of Reliance Communications and Swan Telecom. The said chargesheet states that the accused, former telecom minister A Raja,

entered into criminal conspiracy with the accused Shahid Balwa and Vinod Goenka (of D B Realty) for favouring Swan Telecom.'

Bhushan argued further before the two-judge bench that the CBI chargesheet 'also states that the accused Gautam Doshi, Surendra Pipara and Hari Nair (who are all employees of the Anil Ambani-controlled Reliance and now arrested) in furtherance of their intention to cheat, created Swan Telecom out of funds arranged from Reliance Communications for applying for licenses in 13 circles where

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Reliance Communications did not have GSM spectrum.' 'The CBI has contented that Swan Telecom was held by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group companies through the funds raised by Anil Ambani-controlled businesses,' Bhushan's note says.

'The CBI, in its first chargesheet of April 2, 2011, details the complex web of structuring that was done by the said Reliance employees to hide the fact that Swan was fully a R-AGAG company. These people (arrested and jailed officers) are just the professional employees of the ADAG, and are not the beneficiaries of this scam. The real beneficiary is Anil Ambani, who holds a majority stake and is chairman of the group. The CBI has tried to shield him and has only chargesheeted the employees,' argues Bhushan.

Giving more 'details' of Ambani's alleged culpability in the scam, Bhushan

wrote to the Supreme Court: 'At the time of application for UAS licence, Swan had about 9.9 per cent equity in Swan, while the remaining 90.1 per cent equity was held by Tiger Traders Pvt Ltd, in which the above stated three persons (employees of R-ADAG) were the directors, fronting for Reliance ADAG. The entire money was provided by R-ADAG.'

The CBI has stated, 'Investigation regarding M/s Tiger Traders Pvt Ltd has also disclosed that the source of funds to raise equity and also to subscribe to shares of other companies has also come from group companies of Reliance-ADAG. Further, the source of funds, i.e., Rs 3 crore (Rs 30 million) during January 2007 and Rs 95.51 crore (Rs 955.1 million) during March 2007, utilised by TTPL to subscribe to majority shares of M/s Swan Telecom Pvt Ltd, has been arranged through the group companies of Reliance ADAG. Moreover, a sum of Rs 992 crore (Rs 9.92 billion), which constituted bulk of the net worth of Swan Telecom, was also paid by Reliance....'

However, the CBI has wrongly stated that Gautam Doshi (arrested and jailed) took all the commercial decisions, insists Bhushan to the Supreme Court. In fact, the CBI is currently investigating the sequence of events and chronology of cash payments done by Reliance. The CBI believes that, 'Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, who is the chief executive officer of Reliance Capital Limited and also group managing director at Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, would have more knowledge (about the goings-on) than the three officers who have been arrested and are now in Tihar jail.'

Arguing further his case against Anil Ambani, Bhushan says, 'A senior official of the ICICI Bank has stated to the CBI that only Anil Ambani or his wife Tina Ambani were authorised to make payments of Rs 10 crore (Rs 100 million) and above. There is no possibility of an employee of the company having taken such an important decision of massive investments running into hundreds of crore of rupees. Therefore, the payment made of over Rs 100 crore (Rs 10 billion) from Reliance account on October 19, 2007 to Swan (the same day Reliance got the dual-tech license), could not have been made without the concurrence of Ambani.'

'Moreover, the benefit of dual-technology spectrum was accrued to Ambani, as the majority shareholder, whereas the employees had no financial benefit at all. In the second chargesheet the CBI has established the money trail that establishes serious offences of bribery, corruption, fraud, cheating and conspiracy.'

It is only the dominant shareholder of the ADAG that stood to benefit the most. Most important, it was not possible for an employee to divert Rs 990 crore (Rs 9.90 billion) of public listed company Reliance Communications through its subsidiary Reliance Tele to Swan Telecom and subscribe to Re 1 preference shares bearing 8 per cent interest at a premium of Rs 999.'

'It had to be done by the board and the executive director, the chief executive officer and the majority shareholder. Naming three employees of Reliance-ADAG as the accused without naming Anil Ambani is a serious and deliberate omission,' he alleged.

The transfer of Swan Telecom could not have taken place without the consent of Ambani who had the foreknowledge that his application for dual technology would be granted. If the dominant shareholder, who is also the CEO, is allowed to escape accountability, then it will set a new benchmark to evade corporate criminality,' argued Bhushan.

Bhushan, while talking about Ratan Tata's culpability in the 2G scam, told the Supreme Court that 'the CBI in its first chargesheet goes on for several pages as to how Tata Teleservices is a victim in the entire 2G spectrum scam. As per the CBI, since Tata was an existing operator, it had preference over all new applicants, and therefore since it was not given licence before applicants like Swan, it was a victim.'

The CBI disregards that DoT was following a procedure of FCFS (first come first served) and an application of Tata for the same GSM spectrum came in at the end, on 19/22.10.2007, i.e., after 575 applications were pending, and three weeks after the original cut-off date of 01.10.2007.'

The CBI disregards that as per policy, new operators were encouraged to increase competition and were assured a level playing field. Hence, there is no question of the existence of any policy that states that an existing operator would be given preference. In fact, the policy stated to be followed was of FCFS. On 10.01.2008, Tatas got GSM spectrum in 20 circles and were a major beneficiary of the policies followed by accused A Raja.'

Bhushan tells the court that 'the CBI ignores the clear evidence of quid pro quo between Tata and A Raja's party the DMK. The above has to be considered along with the conversation Niira Radia (Tata's lobbyist) had with Rajathiammal (wife of former chief minister of Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi) wherein the name of the Tatas is clearly mentioned.'

The transcript of the said conversation is already on record as A1 of the additional affidavit. It has also come in the public domain as to how a big land in Chennai worth Rs 500 crore (Rs 5 billion) was given by Tatas to the family of the (former) Tamil Nadu chief minister.'

A letter written by Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata to then

Tamil Nadu chief minister Karunanidhi has also come into the public domain wherein he praised the spectrum allocation policies of former telecom minister A Raja.

Bhushan argues that it 'shows that the Tatas were one of the biggest beneficiaries of the actions of Mr Raja during his stint as telecom minister. The above has to be seen with the fact that Niira Radia lobbied heavily to ensure the return of the accused Raja as telecom minister and in one of the conversations she clearly states that her client Tatas were a beneficiary of the tenure of accused Raja.'

Bhushan has also alleged in his note to the judges that 'the petitioners have now learnt that the CBI is sitting over a crucial lead wherein telecom companies who got 2G licences made payments to a Tamil cultural NGO of which Kanimozhi (accused) is a director. The said NGO received payments from telecom companies including Tata just before the licences were awarded on 10.01.2008.'

Arguing the case against Prashant Ruia's involvement in the 2G scam Bhushan said, 'Petitioners have learnt that while the CBI might be following the case of Loop Telecom which made huge benefits, the investigation has gone cold over the involvement of Prashant Ruia and his family members who through a complex web of transactions set-up Loop Telecom to defraud and cheat the government for the award of 2G spectrum and licences.'

Prashant Ruia is the CEO of Essar Group Ltd. The group is part of the Vodafone-Essar-Hutch Telecom service provider. Bhushan told the court that 'the telecom watchdog, one of the petitioners herein, had made a detailed complaint as to how Ruia is the real face of Loop. Now the Enforcement Directorate and the Reserve Bank of India have already confirmed this,' said Bhushan.

The CBI officers who want to go by the rulebook argue: 'Who can do business of more than Rs 200 crore (Rs 2 billion) in a matter of two-three days without directions from the highest level? We know these so-called living legends of the corporate world are neck-deep in the issue. As of today the 2G spectrum case is handled by many agencies and institutions. We hope the Income-Tax Department, the Enforcement Directorate, the Supreme Court, the lower court, the Joint Parliamentary Committee or our own agency, at the highest level and at an appropriate time, will debate threadbare the issue of Anil Ambani and Ratan Tata's actual involvement in the 2G scam.'

CAG is sticking to its guns that country has suffered a loss of Rs 1,76,000 crore revenue in its testimony before JPC hence the problems for India's best known business leaders are just about to start. The outcome of the 2G scam can be a benchmark for governance pattern in India, and fair trail leading to punishment to guilty people will boost the confidence of common person on the rule of law.



MADHURI BHATTACHARYA

Dreaming big to be a shining star

Madhuri is born and brought up in Bangalore. She did her schooling at the Delhi public school in Delhi, then the army school Bangalore. She completed pre university at Mount Carmel College Bangalore and Masters from M S Ramaiah College, Bangalore.

In her words, "I am basically a happy person. I make everyone's problems my own and lose sleep over them, do counseling and am very good at getting out of messes." Madhuri is an absolute gym bunny and loves the gym. She is doing kick boxing classes with a minimum hour of cardio a day with weights.

My family lives in Bangalore, Madhuri loves dogs.

In fact, all animals. "People make me go round the world and i think there is no better investment than people".. Madhuri is a crusader of lost causes, she want to change the world one day. She is a "dreamer"with a difference. She have learnt during the daily business of life that everything beautiful in this world was once a dream and we never get the kind dreams that we don't have the power to realize. It's just a matter of time and dogged determination.

Sometimes miracles are made on earth.

Madhuri has won the May queen ball, kingfisher hunt for the ramp, Miss Bangalore, Miss South India and Camay sfx megamodel in Mumbai. She did about two hundred add campaigns like spice telecom, central kemp fort, terinus f, kingfisher diet mate n many more, the last of which was the Microsoft campaign.

She did two films in Bangalore, khushi and bisi bisi. And the Sonuu niigaam launch video albums in

Bangalore, Lately she is receiving great reviews after the release of her first Hindi film that is very close to her heart.



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

A. My instincts and self belief.

Q. In terms of quality, how do you rate the Indian model and fashion industry viz western world?

A. We are second to none.

Q. Modeling is about passion or hard core business for you?

A. It is a passion to earn living.

Q. Do you have any synergy with active Indian company in the related sector to promote and co-brand yourself in India?

A. Not yet, but very soon I will be going commercial.

Q. Madhuri is aspiring for?

A. Oh what i want to do in the future..well.. I want to be a little girl when they are growing up!! I want to be admired by the people for my talent and acting skills...i wanna be a superstar!!!

Q&A

HOW INCREDIBLE IS INDIA?

Shombit Sengupta

Along with a global insurance client chairman, a Scotsman operating from Japan, I visited homes of consumers who earn Rs 5,000 per month in different states in India and we micro-detailed their thoughts and lifestyle. Sunday morning we were in North Kolkata's Hatibagan weekly bird market, and the flower market under the Howrah Bridge. It was difficult to walk through the crowd and the multi-coloured bird-cages. Then we went to the outstanding South City Mall and saw people spend Rs 25,000 on a single branded garment. "This India is really incredible. Within a few kilometres you can see extreme poverty and highly Americanised modernity," said the visiting chairman.

The Tourism Ministry's Incredible India advertisements conjure images of a traditional India but when people see copycat Western malls and cars here, they don't see it as a modern evolution—instead they call it Americanisation. That's why we need to make India incredible in a different way.

For centuries India been renowned for its trading business. A new culture has recently emerged—that of downloading. But when will we ever become an inventive society that uploads into the Internet, and not merely downloads? 'Innovation' has become an industry buzzword, used as a business tactic to satisfy shareholders in quarterly results. In developed countries, physical inventions are uploaded on

the World Wide Web as e-information. Those who can afford a computer in India take the opportunity to download it.

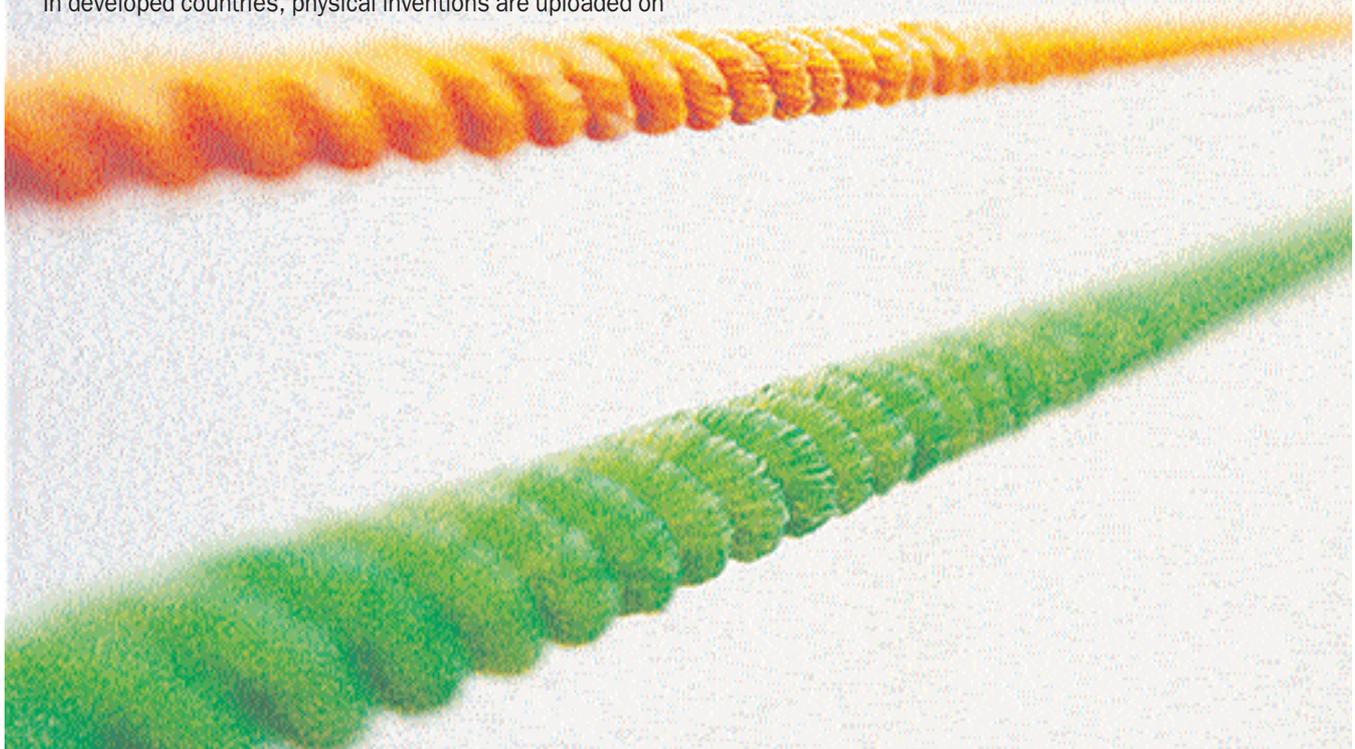
Evolving from being conquerors to cowboys to inventors, Americans have made their country rich and famous. Their inventions have changed people's working conditions and living standards. The US has become an economic power to reckon with. Just take ten American companies - GE, Bell, IBM, Coca-Cola, McDonalds, 3M, Xerox, Microsoft, Apple and Nike - that have become the biggest brands in the world. Their initial initiative was inventive. These brands acquired power not with media hype and advertisement. They had fundamental innovation at inception, which ensured they stayed on in the subconscious minds of the consumers.

There may be heavy criticism of the US encouraging mass consumerism. But nobody can deny that mass consumption has democratised human rights in developed countries. Painter Andy Warhol, who made pop art famous, had said that America is great because, "the richest consumers buy essentially the same things as the poorest. You know the President drinks Coke, Liz Taylor drinks Coke,

and you can drink Coke, too. All the Cokes are the same and all the Cokes are good."

Undoubtedly, access to money led to consumerism, but the industry's approach has always been inventive to improve American life. A basic American family cannot afford a Trump Tower restaurant in New York's 5th Avenue but a

For centuries India been renowned for its trading business. A new culture has recently emerged—that of downloading. But when will we ever become an inventive society that uploads into the Internet, and not merely downloads?





SHINING IN DRAGONLAND: INDIAN ARTISTS PERFORM DURING FESTIVAL OF INDIA IN CHINA

few dollars will buy his entire family a sumptuous meal at McDonald's nearby the Trump Tower. Chains like McDonald's invented quality processes in sourcing, manufacture, service and globalisation so that there is complete predictability in what they offer, no matter where in the world they are located.

In India's unequal society, the biggest population chunk earns below Rs 10,000 a month. Our millionaires or billionaires living in Western style comfort may need no invention, but everyone else in India requires inventions that have the flavour of India's soil, just like Americans invented for American people. Most inventions in the US - even those that have come from the richest man, Bill Gates - seem to have started in the garage. Perhaps inventions will happen in slums here. Can we hope that by 2020, the minimum wages of an individual will become Rs 25,000 per month as per today's monetary valuation? If that becomes feasible, we will realise the Government of India's vision of becoming a developed country by 2020.

Most Indian companies target the populous "bottom of the pyramid" to sell their products to, but pay scant attention to

how these poor people will afford these low priced goods. People have to earn first. Only when their buying power becomes powerful, can there be a robust pyramid of human society.

To achieve the status of being a developed country, India requires soil relevant invention. What does this mean? Here are three idea examples that an India-specific invention has to achieve.

1. The yearly income of a two-acre landowning farmer has to increase from Rs 40,000 to Rs 300,000.
2. Porters should get an auto-mechanised device to transport heavy loads. This will power his everyday working efficiency for earning Rs 25,000 per month.
3. A totally moulded, minimally mechanised and service-proof four-wheeler vehicle with very low cost of ownership can be created for use in transportation of commercial goods and for the family's lifestyle purpose.

Britain's Industrial Revolution from the 1760s auto-mechanised everything, and facilitated high productivity with reduced labour. This improved people's living style. For India to really become incredible, we need a revolution of India-centric invention of auto-mechanised devices for 70 per cent of our billion-plus people. That

would get rid of poverty too. To represent India as a developed country, a certain homogeneity is required among the poor and rich. It's every individual's human right to get a certain level of comfort in life at both the workplace and the home. After that, merit can take a person far into boundaryless achievement depending on every individual's drive and calibre.

The West has proved that functional devices can end slavery and improve human life. Privileged Indians should take a call to abolish the unofficial "slavery" of the underprivileged where sub-minimum wages are paid for unorganised sectors.

Helping the poor with money makes them the dependent poor. We need to give them an instrument for personal growth. In other words, no free fish, give a fishing rod to catch fish everyday. This is the way incredible India can really fall in place. To change India's inequality we need the INDIA acronym to become Innovative Nation Driving Inventive Action (INDIA). Such a disruption will make India incredible in its essence.

(Shombit Sengupta is an international creative business strategy consultant to top management. www.shiningconsulting.com)

BUDGET 2010

Focus on fiscal consolidation

Govt gets tough with aam admi. Car, TV and even petrol-diesel to get dearer



ALL EARS: CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY LISTENING TO THE PM'S POST-BUDGET SPEECH

The aam admi government is finally acting tough and its decision to roll back some of the excise duty cuts it had introduced as part of the stimulus package means that the new base rate for excise duty has gone up from 8 per cent to 10 per cent.

There is additional excise duty on petrol and diesel and even the the Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) rate has gone up from 15 per cent to 18 per cent of book profits.

Even though the hike in personal income tax limits means that the government will lose Rs 26,000 crore in potential direct tax collections, the Rs 46,5000 crore extra earnings from custom and excise means that the government's net earnings will be in positive territory.

Given the government's tight fiscal position, the industry was already expecting a hike in excise rates.

In fact, many quarters were pleasantly surprised as as they feared that excise rates might be hiked by as much as 4 per cent.

Nevertheless, a hike in excise rates will have an immediate inflationary impact and the move comes at a time when the government is already battling a high rate of inflation.

The finance minister is on the path to fiscal consolidation which means only cash reimbursement for oil companies and off balance sheet items will now show as part of the fiscal deficit.

Despite, the revision in income tax slabs, the government hopes to collect Rs 430,000 crore through direct tax collection which is 11 per cent more than this years collection and Rs 315,000 crore through indirect tax collections which is 29 per cent more than last year.

The finance minister is on the path to fiscal consolidation which means only cash reimbursement for oil companies and off balance sheet items will now show as part of the fiscal deficit.

Despite, the revision in income tax slabs, the government hopes to collect Rs 430,000 crore through direct tax collection which is 11 per cent more than this years collection...

These collections will help reduce the government's fiscal deficit to 5.5 per cent in 2010-11 from 6.9 per cent at the moment.

The government plans to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.8 per cent the following year and eventually reduce it to 4.1 per cent.

However, it is not just tax revenues that will fill the government's coffers. A massive Rs 40,000 crore from divestment while Rs 35000 crore from 3G spectrum auction will add more bulk to the government kitty.

While the government has increased its expenditure by 8.6 per cent, increased tax buoyancy could help it meet its targets.

'This year was a very difficult time for me'

Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee gave a post-budget interview to Business Standard. Here's the transcript:



Have you stepped on the brake a little bit on the stimulus? Will that affect our growth?

I hope it will not. When I took this decision I asked, how long can I have this fiscal expansion? I would have to come back to the fiscal consolidation path, otherwise it would have become unsustainable. If I did this earlier, if I would not have given the stimulus package that was injected in three installments in December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009, perhaps it would have been premature. I also thought that I should not have a total roll-back, but partial. You may call it a conservative approach, but I thought it was prudent on my part to adopt the cautious approach rather than the adventurous step.

This year was a very difficult time for me, or for any finance minister. There was a lot of uncertainty in the first part of the year. On top of this was an indifferent monsoon. The second half saw robust recovery, which was reflected in second-quarter GDP growth at 7.9 per cent. There was a diametrically opposite picture in the first two quarters in the same year. I had to formulate my proposals in that context. When I saw indications of the economy turning around, I thought it was time for a partial roll-back.

There are two concerns – growth and inflation. You have rolled back (cuts in) indirect taxes. In particular, you have increased taxes on petrol and diesel. Are you worried that the increase in indirect taxes might stoke inflationary fires?

There will be some inflationary impact, to be honest. I asked the economists. The impact would be about 0.41 per cent on the wholesale price index. There may be some cascading effects also, but one plus point is that these are not new taxes. These taxes were imposed earlier. The economy absorbed them.

You say you will implement the Kirit Parikh report, but what you have done in the Budget today is go in the opposite direction. The Kirit Parikh committee said to lower taxes and increase prices. You have instead raised the taxes, so it's become more difficult to implement the price increase.



YES, MINISTER: FINANCE MINISTER SURROUNDED BY MIKES-N-CAMERAS BEFORE PRESENTING THE BUDGET

That is not correct. The net effect and end impact will be the same. When the prices will go up, they will be adjusted to the market. When I increase tax, it does not mean it will automatically be passed on. These two things should be separated.

It now becomes more difficult to implement Kirit Parikh recommendations?

That is not necessary. This tax was temporarily withdrawn because of the high prices of crude oil. Today, therefore, the case is not that I will have to reduce tax to implement Kirit Parikh report. We will also have to take into account views of various states. In the administered price mechanism, states do not have any share but when we enhance the prices through the duty route, 32 per cent of it goes to the states.

Oil companies are making huge losses and you have taken that extra increase in prices instead of freeing the price and allowing them to make some money and stop their losses.

But I am meeting substantial part of it, even this year if you see the fine print of the Budget. For 2008-09, I have given them Rs 10,000 crore worth of bonds. This is the only bond issue I have given. Otherwise, I have decided to give it in cash to bring transparency in the accounting system.

Will you move towards freeing oil prices?

I have indicated that this decision will have to be taken by my colleague in the ministry of petroleum in the course of time.

You have made some 25 million income tax payers very happy today. Taking a three-year perspective, corporate income tax revenue has gone up by more than 60 per cent while individual income tax has gone up by only 1 per cent. Income tax

is stagnant while corporate revenue is shooting up.

I accept your point. The share of the contribution of individual income tax in the overall tax basket has come down. Earlier, when the tax base was so low, individuals contributed much more, but we have left that philosophy behind. Even with these reductions, the tax-to-GDP ratio is 10 per cent-plus. It is not as high as 12 per cent, which I want to achieve.

We will also have to take into account views of various states. In the administered price mechanism, states do not have any share but when we enhance the prices through the duty route, 32 per cent of it goes to the states.

You have left three critical tasks for next year ? one is the Goods and Services Tax, the Direct Taxes Code and making service tax universal, which you said you don't want to do this year. In a sense, this is a semi-final budget. The final budget is next year.

No. Not semi-final. Final I cannot do because I have to wait to evolve a consensus. I am not the master alone. There are 28 states. Their views have to be taken into account for GST. In the Direct Taxes Code I am the master. Service tax will be subsumed in the GST.

Anjula Acharia Bath
 Chairman, *President and Founder, Desi Hits!*

Anjula Acharia Bath is the face of Desi Hits! She combines extensive advertising and recruiting knowledge with a keen ear for music position to propel Desi (South Asian) culture and artists into the public eye. Desi Hits! is an innovative multi-platform media company that is undoubtedly creating a cultural shift in the digital field and pop culture worldwide. Steering the company to global influence, Anjula creates and executes deals with US Major labels such as Universal, Warner Music Group and Sony, and South Asian/Bollywood film studios. Anjula's pioneering efforts have led the company to some of the biggest names in music, 50 Cent, Pussycat Dolls, Britney Spears and Sonu Niiggam have all been featured on DesiHits.com While Anjula is busy with Desi Hits! you can still keep up with her in the press! She receives global press, radio and television recognition for her achievements. She's been recognized in the Wall Street Journal, VOGUE, Business Week, Rolling Stone, WWD, on BBC and NPR, and Fox. She

speaks regularly at media conferences. She was a guest speaker at NYU's Clive Davis School of Music, served as a judge for the "Music Video Award" at The Ibiza International Film Festival and holds many media industry awards.

The Desi Hits! spokeswoman began her career leading strategy and delivery for emerging technologies practice at the Forsyth Group. She co-founded the media and entertainment search firm Merchant McKenzie where she placed executive talent for companies such as Walt Disney Internet Group and Universal Pictures International. As director at London TMP Worldwide, Anjula worked strategically with the CEO and Board to develop and guide direction for Monster.com. Committed to the arts and media, she holds a B.A. with Honors in Theatre Arts and Communications from Middlesex University and is a published writer. Anjula continues to excel and just completed her first fiction novel that is a fun, sexy journey of three women and explores the second generation South Asian experience. When it comes to pushing for innovation and excitement, Anjula leads the way! Here are some of the excerpts of an online interview conducted by Ritu Shulka, fashion editor with Anjula.

'We are
 all about
 east-west
 fusion'

Q. What inspired you to promote typical Indian music and entertainment in the West?

We don't actually promote "typical Indian music" we are all about east/west fusion entertainment and create content which is a fusion of bhangra, hiphop, rock, Hindi film music, bhangra and pop - whatever works and sounds good we will play. We also want to give South Asian artists a chance to work with western artists and vice versa so we actively seek out collaborations with all types of artists. Hiphop has been using desi beats for a long time, it's about time our faces were associated with it too!! Desihits doesn't just focus on music we have general entertainment news and Radio/TV shows that cover all aspects of fusion South Asian culture from fashion, music related content, interviews and film reviews. It's a diverse platform and we have both western and eastern stars on it from SRK to 50 Cent, you will find them all on Desihits.com and other platforms we syndicate to.



Anjula Acharia Bath



TEAM DESIHITS

Q. In terms of quality, the clientele for desihits can be niche but do you feel the volume is sufficient to sustain the business?

Desihits.com was originally created for bi-cultural, eclectic and bi-lingual south Asians globally from India to the west. There are a lot of young people in India that are finding their lives are changing with western brands and culture infiltrating, they speak English and are on facebook. I don't think they are much different these days from their cousins in the UK or the USA and the fusion culture is very present in the tier 1 and 2 cities. Given there are approximately 700 Million people under the age of 30 in India and a huge Diaspora that lives a very fusion lifestyle, my sense is, we have plenty of opportunity to grow and a big audience to capture! Also, we have a large non-desi following and my sense is that given the bi-cultural spin on our content it is more palatable to them than a pure Desi offering. Given we are working with some of the biggest names in pop we are taking Desi culture through them to their existing fan bases which are non South Asian as well as extending the artist further into the Desi demographic.

Q. Desihits is about passion or hard core business?

It started as a passion project and still very much is. My founders and I spent our lives going to different places for our diverse content/cultural needs... whether it be a hiphop site, a pop music site and then a bollywood site - we wanted to create a place that you could get it ALL.

Personally, I grew up in a very racist environment where south asian culture wasn't understood or tolerated. It made me as a child feel very ashamed of my culture and heritage. I'd like to say that this isn't the case for kids today, but I know from the emails we receive that it often is. Whether that's the case or not I feel that it's very powerful for young south Asians to see their western role models embrace their culture, whether that's 50 Cent, Lady Gaga, Pussycat Dolls or Britney Spears...(we have done them all!) I still remember how my cousins and friends reacted when they first saw Michael Jackson put an Indian dancer in his video;

We are working with Rolling Stone India, Zee TV and Nokia, given India is the 2nd largest mobile market in the world, Nokia's OVI store is a great platform for us to get our content out given their dominance in that market.

we all rushed to the TV and were so excited and proud. I asked myself why this created such a reaction and I realized it was because we felt this super star whose records and tickets we have all purchased, actually knew who we were and at some level I guess we felt acknowledged. I'm sure we will all say that we don't need western stars to acknowledge us -

but the truth is, we want to be represented in mainstream media and we are talented so why shouldn't we be?? As a demographic we are powerful and have huge spending ability.... Like any other demographic we should be marketed to as we are a valuable consumer in the west and in India and for far too long I feel we have been ignored... we should have content and music from the west that is also created with us in mind and resonates with us at another level. When you start thinking about

how South Asians (globally) are a valued consumer and the opportunity brands have to reach our demographic you realize there is a hard core business there!! Desihits has attracted some very serious investors like Draper Fisher Jurvetson and DE Shaw and industry professionals such as Jimmy Iovine (Chairman and CEO Interscope Universal Records) and Vivi Nevo (Time Warner), so business is definitely on the agenda.

Q. Apart from the conventional US and UK market, Desihits is popular in which part of the world?

Our core markets are UK, USA, Canada, UAE and India.

Q. Do you have any synergy with active Indian company in the related sector to promote and co-brand your products and service in India?

We are working with Rolling Stone India, Zee TV and Nokia, given India is the 2nd largest mobile market in the world, Nokia's OVI store is a great platform for us to get our content out given their dominance in that market. We are also working on various other deals in India. We have been approached by a lot of potential partners in India who believe we speak to a very emerging demographic of young people who want more than just pure Bollywood, we give all of it to them (including bollywood - but in our style!! Cool, eclectic and fused to perfection!). With our unique access to all mainstream artists and celebrities we can create exclusive content for the Indian market that no one else can.



Dubai model under scrutiny

As we reach the end of a miserable 2009, signs continue to mount across the globe that the world economy is stirring back to life. The U.S. finally returned to growth in the third quarter, with its strongest showing in two years, India posted inspiring 7.9% growth and the re-

sults out of tiny Taiwan, one of the economies slammed the hardest by the global recession, were so impressive one economist beamed that the island "got its groove on." Stock markets, aside from a downward blip here and there, have generally been buoyant. During this season of Thanksgiving and holiday cheer, there

seems to be good reason to give thanks and be cheerful.

Or maybe not. The worst of the crisis is almost certainly behind us, but that doesn't mean the crisis is over. Lying ahead are a slew of unresolved problems, policy challenges and, no doubt, further surprises. Unemployment remains a serious global issue, and may yet get worse; excess capacity left over from the boom years haunts the recovery; and the drastic stimulus programs utilized to fight the recession are creating a new menu of potential troubles. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in an address in London in late November that "the storm has passed" but "the global economy remains very much in a holding pattern - stable, and getting better, but still highly vulnerable." He added: "There is a lot of uncertainty in the air."

That was made clear on Nov. 25 when the city-state of Dubai shocked the global investment community by asking creditors of its main corporate arm, ports-and-property conglomerate Dubai World, for a six-month payment standstill on its almost \$60 billion of liabilities. The surprise hit stock markets in Asia and the U.S., while sending investors scrambling for safe havens like the U.S. dollar. Experts have since engaged in a rabid round of speculation over what the Dubai debt crisis might mean for the world economy. Some see the problem as little more than a big real estate bust. "I don't see what the big deal is," Willem Buiters, economist at the London School of Economics and Political Science, wrote bluntly. Others see the Dubai crisis as the potential flashpoint for a new stage of the global crisis, a sign that heavily indebted sovereign states might begin having trouble financing their deficits, or that investors will reassess their exposure to risky emerging markets in some kind of financial "contagion." BofA Merrill Lynch strategists postulated in a report that "one cannot rule out - as a tail risk - a case where this would escalate into a major sovereign-default problem, which would then resonate across global emerging markets."

Scary stuff, indeed, but so far, that worst-case scenario doesn't appear to be materializing. The central bank of the United Arab Emirates promised on Sunday to stand behind the country's banks with fresh liquidity, causing stock markets in Asia to rebound on Monday. Nevertheless, the Dubai debacle is just the kind of dangerous unknown that can still arise out of the financial crisis, even while a general recovery is under way. Financial crises change the rules of the



game, especially when it comes to determining how money flows, and where and to whom. Perceptions of risk among bankers and investors can change - but the ramifications of that change are often delayed, and not easy to predict.

Take the Asian financial crisis of 1997. In South Korea, the biggest corporate failure - the collapse of the humungous Daewoo Group - happened two years after the onset of the crisis, when healthy economic growth had already returned. The crisis had undermined the fundamental willingness of a reformed banking sector and reform-minded government to continue backing the country's bloated and financially irresponsible companies. Daewoo's problems originated before the Asian crisis, but they only exploded after the crisis.

The fact is that the world economy continues to be burdened by heavy baggage created during the boom times, problems that could take years to resolve. U.S. consumers are undergoing their own debt workout, one that might even worsen if joblessness continues to rise. Though defaults on credit cards in the U.S. fell in October, delinquencies, or late payments, rose - a sign that financial firms could expect more losses down the road. Japan, which experienced its fastest growth in two years in the third quarter, is dealing with the nasty problem of deflation, an indication that the economy is suffering from excess capacity. The falling prices, by eating away at the financial health of

companies, could lead to more downsizing and slower growth. "The recent price falls are not right and worrisome," Japan's Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii recently said.

Even countries apparently powering through the recession are hounded by tricky policy conundrums. After Chinese banks engaged in massive lending aimed at combating the global downturn, China's regulators warned in late November that they must meet mandated capital requirements or risk sanctions...

And on top of the old problems, new ones are appearing as well. Fears continue to mount that the loose monetary policies put in place by central banks worldwide are creating potentially destabilizing increases in property and stock prices. "Asset bubbles could be the next fragility as the world recovers, threatening again to destroy livelihoods and trap millions more in poverty," World Bank President

Robert Zoellick recently wrote in the Financial Times. Property-market analyst Nicole Wong at brokerage CLSA argues that Hong Kong may inevitably be heading for "another boom and bust" in its real estate sector, due to a combination of tight supply and easy money. "The answer to the question could there be a property bubble in Hong Kong is yes," she says.

Even countries apparently powering through the recession are hounded by tricky policy conundrums. After Chinese banks engaged in massive lending aimed at combating the global downturn, China's regulators warned in late November that they must meet mandated capital requirements or risk sanctions, a strong sign that Beijing is worrying over the possible fallout from its stimulus program. China also faces a tough choice on its currency regime. The government is under increased pressure from the U.S. and European Union to allow the yuan to appreciate, though policymakers remain nervous about the negative effect that could have on its struggling export sector. China "is like watching a duck swim," says Giles Chance, author of the recently published book *China and the Credit Crisis*. "On the surface it seems fine, but underneath it's quite chaotic."

That metaphor could describe the entire world economy. The emerging recovery is masking a whole lot of chaos. Let's hope the duck keeps swimming.

*OEMCL News Services
with Dubai Bureau*

Global economic crisis: Part II starts from Europe

D K Matai

Anyone believing the global economic crisis to be over should have taken a look around Europe this week. Desperate to revive his country's feeble economy, Irish Finance Minister Brian Lenihan promised \$6 billion worth of savings in a budget aimed at taming the country's stubborn deficit. The plan is his second budget this year, and Ireland's harshest in decades. In a mini-budget announced a couple of hours earlier, Britain's Alistair Darling unveiled his government's latest plan to fix the U.K.'s broken economy, including a punitive tax on bankers' bonuses, a rise in social security contributions and a cap on public-sector workers' pay.

In other parts of Europe, things are looking even worse. Shares on the Greek stock market have fallen 9% over the past two days. The parlous state of Greece's public finances has prompted credit-rating agency Fitch to lower the country's debt rating to BBB+, the lowest in the euro zone, Europe's single-currency region. Further blows could follow: rival agencies Moody's and Standard & Poor's have threatened similar moves in recent days.

Two weeks after Dubai stunned investors by requesting a standstill on \$60 billion in liabilities belonging to its main corporate arm, Greece's downgrade is yet more evidence that the economic crisis is far from over. For countries left to fill gaping holes in their public finances exposed by the meltdown, there's plenty of pain still to come.

Nowhere more so than Greece. Years of debt-fueled consumption and lax fiscal policies have left the country drowning in red ink. National debt is expected to rise to 125% of GDP in 2010, the highest in the euro zone. "If you want an example of a political elite that thought membership of the euro zone was a panacea," says Simon Tilford, chief economist at the Centre for European Reform in London, "you don't need to look further than Greece. They're in very serious trouble."

Getting out of it won't be easy. Jean-Claude Trichet, president of the European Central Bank, which sets interest rates for the euro zone's 16 countries, urged the



country on Monday, Dec. 7, to take "courageous" steps to tackle the crisis. Greek Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou, part of the socialist government that won power in the country last October, duly pledged to do "whatever is required" to shore up the country's finances. Key to the recovery plan: slashing Greece's budget deficit next year from 12.7% - more than four times the level allowed under E.U. rules - to 9.1%.

While that has triggered revenue-raising measures like a crackdown on tax evasion, there's little sign of the deep spending cuts the country needs to rebalance its books. What's more, reviving growth will mean shifting from an economy founded on domestic consumption to one driven by exports. "That's going to be extremely difficult, given that [the Greeks have] allowed their cost competitiveness within the euro zone to erode massively," says Tilford. "We're still seeing big increases in Greece's wages."

Contrast that with Ireland. Since losing

its edge in Europe - rising labor costs helped the country's share of euro-zone exports fall one-fifth between 2001 and 2008 - the Irish haven't shied from cutting their cloth in recent months. In his budget announced Dec. 9, for instance, Lenihan unleashed deeply unpopular cuts in public-sector pay that look set to trigger strike action. But when it comes to a spending squeeze of their own, says Tilford, "the Greeks are a long way from recognizing that they really have no choice."

That surely irks the E.U., which is limited in the amount of help - or punishment - it can impose on Greece. Allowing the country to default, or to approach to the International Monetary Fund for emergency funds, would deal a huge blow to the credibility of the 11-year-old euro zone. Whatever financial concessions it can offer, therefore, will almost certainly come with stiff conditions. Greece may have little option but to accept.

(Writer is chairman, ATAC)

BOI Mauritius

THE FIRST

for Investors

PORT OF CALL

Opinion Express Associate editor Dr Rahul Misra conducted Q & A session with MD of BOI Mauritius, MR JADOO pitched his views of promoting investments in Mauritius.

Q Mauritius is strategically located to cater for the entire African continent for overseas investors. The domestic environment in Mauritius is business friendly and safe for overseas investors. But the cost of doing business in Mauritius is relatively high that makes the Asian options more lucrative. What is your assessment in this respect?

It is true that, in some respects, the cost of doing business in Mauritius is higher compared to most Asian countries and here, we would refer to labour cost and the cost of raw materials. However, these are offset by many other advantages that the country offers. Mauritius offers a transparent, rule-based and cost effective business environment. As part of its investment strategy, reforms were introduced to encourage business development and employment creation. Trade was liberalised, price controls on certain commodities were lifted, business regulations were simplified, a far-reaching tax reform and fiscal consolidation strategy was initiated favouring low taxes, and inflationary pressures were controlled through sound monetary policy. As a result of the reforms, the economy has been strengthened with robust growth for four consecutive years and foreign direct investment flowing into the country at unprecedented rates. Our efforts on business facilitation have underlined the surge in attracting foreign investors.

Besides the conducive business environment, Mauritius also offers access to the regional markets. Mauritius is a full-fledged member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). These offer the opportunity to tap into a market of over 500 million consumers. Additionally, Mauritius has a culture of doing business with the US and the EU and enjoys preferential access to these markets as well under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the recently signed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

In addition, the country has a modern Port Infrastructure & Freeport that brings you closer to the African continent. We have multiple shipping connections which allows for shorter delivery periods to neighbouring countries. According to a recent study carried out by Confinter, the Port of Mauritius is among the most competitive port in the region. Our port



BOI managing director Mr Jadoo

The Board of Investment

The Board of Investment (BOI) was established under the Investment Promotion Act 2000. It is the apex investment promotion agency of the Republic of Mauritius. The BOI promotes and facilitates investment and is the official point-of-contact for investors investing in Mauritius. The role of the BOI is to promote and facilitate investment in every sector. This national investment promotion agency is actively stimulating the development, expansion and growth of the economic sectors by promoting Mauritius as an international investment, business and service centre. As part of its mandate, BOI advises the Mauritius Government on strategies for investment policies, national investment marketing and investment aftercare, economic and industrial planning and country image building.

has the capacity to handle about 440,000 TEU's (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) per year and the cost of handling amounts to around US \$ 95 per full 20 ft container, which is the lowest in the region.

Globalisation has led to a tremendous change in the way investors look at a country. Investors today will not look at costs primarily but will also look at the business environment of the country as well as the investment security that the country provides. Investors today trust and favour those countries where there are strong regulatory & legal frameworks and established institutions that facilitate and regulate investment. Mauritius is among those countries that have been able to provide such environment by topping the list of countries in the World Bank 2010 Doing Business Survey which ranks Mauritius 1st in Africa and 17th in the world for ease of doing business.

In addition, the country has a modern Port Infrastructure & Freeport that brings you closer to the African continent. We have multiple shipping connections which allows for shorter delivery periods to neighbouring countries. According to a recent study carried out by Confinter, the Port of Mauritius is among the most competitive port in the region.

The success that Mauritius has achieved has been beautifully summed up by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the recently held summit of the AGOA Forum in Kenya where she stated that 'Mauritius has taken steps in recent years to attract investment by enacting reforms that protect investors and promote business. The country has demonstrated a commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance. And today the people of Mauritius have been the primary beneficiaries of these reforms'.

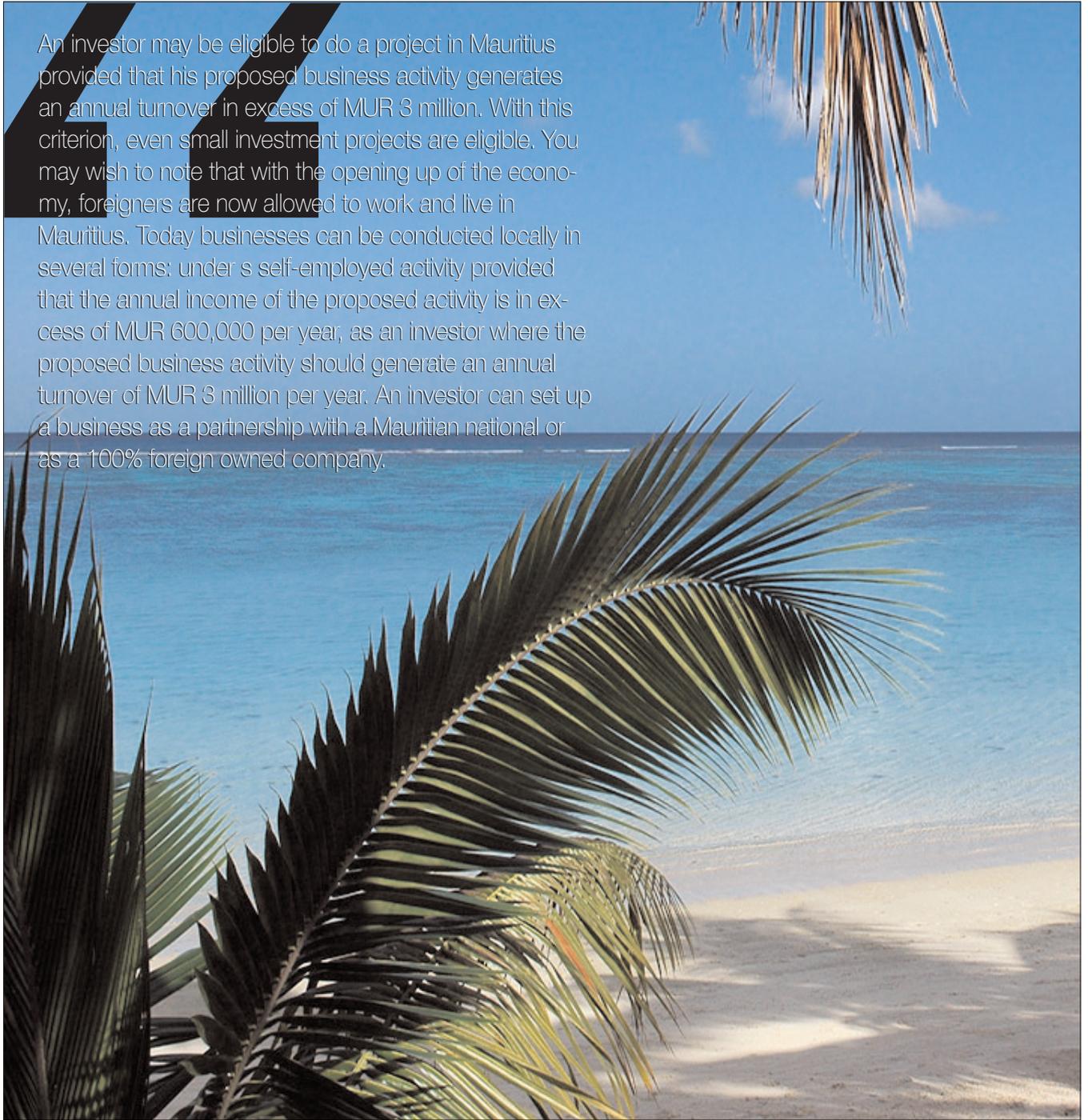
Q Board of Investment is a key catalyst to invest in Mauritius, but we have received information that BOI is focused on large investments and ignores small investors who actually need a facilitator to establish business in new environment. You have something to clarify?

BOI particularly encourages investments that will benefit the socio-economic growth of Mauritius in a sustainable manner. It is not true to say that BOI focuses on large investments to the detriment of small ones. We have had a very open policy where we have been encouraging investment in diverse sectors and also independently of the size of the projects.

As the investment promotion agency of the Government of Mauritius, the Board of Investment provides support to any investor who wishes to set up a business in our country, be it an investor with a big project or an investor with a small project. The size of the investment doesn't matter, but what is important for us is the contribution to the economic growth of the country and the employment generation.

It is interesting to note that there is no minimum investment required in Mauritius.

An investor may be eligible to do a project in Mauritius provided that his proposed business activity generates an annual turnover in excess of MUR 3 million. With this criterion, even small investment projects are eligible. You may wish to note that with the opening up of the economy, foreigners are now allowed to work and live in Mauritius. Today businesses can be conducted locally in several forms: under s self-employed activity provided that the annual income of the proposed activity is in excess of MUR 600,000 per year, as an investor where the proposed business activity should generate an annual turnover of MUR 3 million per year. An investor can set up a business as a partnership with a Mauritian national or as a 100% foreign owned company.



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Since 2006, when those measures were introduced under the Business Facilitation Act, 80,000 new businesses have been registered. I once again wish to stress that Mauritius pursues an open and liberal economic policy, welcoming investment irrespective of its size and also in all sectors and the BOI as the investment promotion agency provides support to all investors.

Q How productive are the BOI regional offices in overseas countries to attract investment in Mauritius? What specific strategy is followed by BOI HQ to monitor regional offices to get maximum return?

The Board of Investment used to have two regional offices one in Europe and one in

India. However, last year our board decided to review our strategy and to maintain an effective presence on the overseas markets. Instead of having overseas offices, we have decided to work with PR agencies that will support us in our activities at media level, corporate level as well as communication level. We have thus appointed a PR agency in India and in South Africa to support us in our promotional activities. In Europe, we will focus more on the promotion of specific sectors where our respective clusters will be present.

The Board of Investment also operates an advisory centre which operates as a call centre and which provides information on the investment opportunities and the business environment in Mauritius.

Very close relations have been established with all of our honorary consul overseas and also our embassies. All our embassies will shortly be connected to our advisory centre where they will provide first hand information to the investors.

We have also developed a network of 'friends of Mauritius' that will help us in our efforts.

We will also be present in all the major events in order to ensure visibility of the country. We will participate in specific and targeted events where we can attract investment.

The closure of our overseas office doesn't mean that we will not be present in our key markets. We will continue to keep our presence but in a more effective way.

Q What is the USP Mauritius is offering to international community in the present recession scenario to attract global attention?

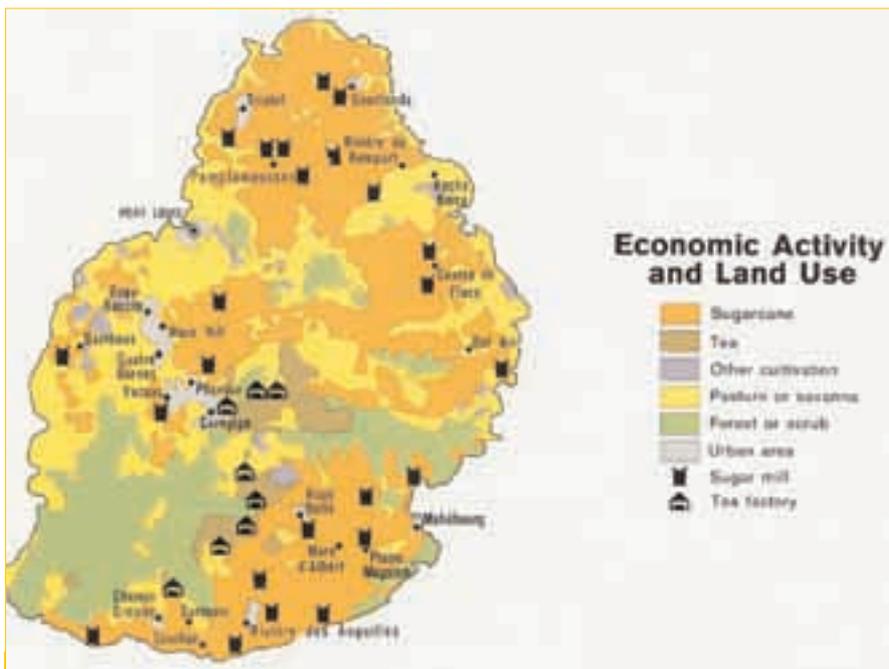
The recent economic downturn is the most crisis that the world has ever known. Mauritius was in no way immune to these turbulences; however its economy proved to be resilient to such external shocks. Despite the worldwide recession, the Mauritian economy saw a positive GDP growth of 2.8% and attracted around MUR 8.4 billion of FDI, compared to MUR 11 billion in 2008, hence a drop of only 24% compared to the forecasted 80%.

This exceptional performance was due to several measures that were initiated with foresight and ahead of the rest of the region to strengthen the country's economy. Government initiated a series of far-reaching reforms back in 2005 and, in 2008, it was prescient in saving some 3 percent of GDP in special funds for the difficult times to come. Through a track record of strong policy responses, government further strengthened the country's resilience to external shocks. Stimulus measures were implemented, which proved to be timely, innovative, comprehensive and effective. Government stimulated the economy through expansionary macroeconomic policies; frontloaded public infrastructure projects to save and create jobs; supported micro, small, medium and large enterprises that were in difficulty; protected the vulnerable, the unemployed and the retrenched workers; and prepared the country for recovery.

Today, the Mauritian economy is resuming its growth path prior to the economic downturn and its GDP is expected to grow by 4.5% this year. The success of the country's new development paradigm is today reflected not only in economic figures, but also in the optimistic mood in the country. It rests on a strong base that we have built and strengthened over the years, which include economic stability, strong government support, strong public-private partnership, the rule of law, transparent institutions, ease of doing business, a business friendly environment and a modern and reliable infrastructure.

Q Please specify the most promising sectors to invest in Mauritius?

We are building a multi-pillar economy to cre-



To further diversify the economic base and generate sustainable growth, the government is also actively encouraging the following economic activities: hospitality and property development, healthcare and biomedical industry, agri-processing and biotechnology, the knowledge industry, renewable energy and creative industry as well as the land based oceanic industry. The Land based oceanic industry is a new and innovative industry which is currently being developed and let me elaborate on this.

ate more resilience to external shocks. The sugar industry, a pillar of development since colonial times, is consolidating and restructuring. Producers are also expanding into related activities, such as power generation from sugar cane residue (bagasse) and ethanol production, and are moving up the supply chain into refined sugar.

The development of "flexi-factories" able to switch production between sugar and ethanol will make the sector more adaptable and responsive to developments in international markets. In addition to encouraging the restructuring and modernization of the sugar and textile sectors, the government is putting much emphasis on the development of the ICT sector. A growing number of multinationals are choosing Mauritius for our bilingual workforce, our convenient time zone, state-of-the-art infrastructure and open-economy environment. In 2005, there were 40 companies operating in the IT/BPO space in Mauritius employing 4000 people. By December 2009, the number of companies rose to 300 with employment reaching 12,000. This represents an annual compounded average growth rate of 45% as far as employment in the sector is concerned.

Investment opportunities have been identified in key areas such as BPO, Shared Services, Technical Helpdesk, IT Outsourcing. Additionally, Mauritius has also been considered for providing business continuity services, data centre and disaster recovery services. All legal provisions are in place inclusive of the data protection act. Connectivity to the SAFE undersea cable is available. However, in order to pursue its programme of reducing telecom prices, Government is investing with a consortium of regional investors in a second fibre optic cable which will connect Mauritius to the Eastern African Cable initiatives by mid 2011.

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The Land based oceanic industry is a new and innovative industry which is currently being developed and let me elaborate on this.



Mauritius straddles the Great Conveyor Belt that moves massive undercurrents of mineral and nutrient-rich deep sea water around the globe. The land-based oceanic industry aims at exploiting this situation through sustainable and environment-friendly technologies and processes which will result in niche products catering for profitable market segments. The first phase of the Mauritius Eco-Park project is being implemented for the hosting of green data centres on a plot of 10 hectares and will be operational in June 2011. The coldness of the deep sea water is seen as being very attractive for the data centre industry. With the problem that the data centres in Europe and

South East Asia are facing due to carbon credit limitations, Mauritius is well positioned to attract investors in the green data centres area. Indian companies are invited to look at these opportunities.

Q How does BOI reach out to the potential business community having investment potential to invest in Mauritius, and what approach shall be adopted by BOI to reach out to new territories?

Over the years, BOI has built a strong team of young professionals which have increased its capability in responding to investors and their needs. We have developed relations with

key institutions overseas and regularly organize missions abroad to promote Mauritius and meet face-to-face with potential investors. We are also organizing more and more international conferences locally.

In this way, we not only promote the exchange of information and knowledge between our people and the international community, but also give an opportunity for international experts and investors to see the enormous potential that we have here. Our dedicated team keeps abreast with developments in the world economy and carries out research on new markets which could be of interest for Mauritius.



Growing young

AT HEART

Dr Vivek Dubey

You're never too young—or too old—to start lowering your heart disease risk. Of course, exercising, eating healthy and reducing stress are key throughout life, but due to physiological changes that happen as we age, certain risk factors do become more of a threat.

In Your 20s

1 **Stub Out a Social Smoking Habit**

Smoking is enemy number one when it comes to heart disease, and even just a few cigarettes can do damage: New research from McGill University in Montreal found that smoking just one cigarette a day stiffens your arteries by a whopping 25 percent. Plus, smoking erases the hormonal advantage you have from estrogen, which can leave you vulnerable to a heart attack before menopause, explains Dr. Bonow.

1 **Don't Ignore the Birth Control Factor**

Remember that hormonal contraceptives slightly increase the risk of blood clots, so if you've ever had one, make sure to discuss it with your doctor before going on birth control. And if you're currently a smoker, don't take oral contraceptives, because the combo can be especially dangerous, says Sharonne N. Hayes, MD, director of the Women's Heart Clinic at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

1 **Watch Your Alcohol Intake**

Moderate amounts of alcohol can have a beneficial effect on your heart. (By "moderate," we mean one drink a day or about 5 ounces—but many restaurants serve far more than that.)



All About YOU: 3 Heart-Healthy Foods

Three things you should feed your heart every day. Nuts – eat at least a handful a day. Nuts are an excellent source of healthful fats and protein. In the Iowa Nurses Study and three other studies, an ounce a day cut the incidence of heart disease by 20 percent to 60 percent.

The best nuts (those highest in omega-3 fatty acids) are walnuts, but all nuts are good for you. More heart-smart foods: Olive oil – be sure it and other healthy fats (like those in nuts) make up about 25 percent of your daily calories. Olive oil contains monounsaturated fats, which raise your HDL ("healthy") cholesterol. This good cholesterol actually helps clean out your arteries as it moves through your body. That's why when it comes to HDL, higher is better. Flavonoids – get 31 milligrams a day. What are flavonoids? Powerful antioxidants and anti-inflammatories that occur in many plant foods, including – yes, nuts – plus tea (any kind), red wine, grapes, berries, cranberry juice, orange juice, onions, tomatoes, and tomato juice. You can get your daily dose by drinking two-and-a-half glasses of cranberry juice or several cups of tea.

RealAge Benefit: Eating a diverse diet that is low in calories and high in nutrients can make your RealAge as much as 4 years younger.

(97% of users found this article helpful)

Overdoing it can raise triglycerides, increase blood pressure and lead to weight gain, thanks to all those empty calories.

In Your 30s

1 Get a Grip on Stress

When you're juggling career and family, it's crucial to find stress management techniques that work.

"Untamed stress has a direct negative impact on heart health," says Dr. Stevens. "The constant bombardment of adrenaline raises blood pressure and destabilizes plaque in your arteries, making it likely to cause a clot or heart attack."

1 Lose the Baby Weight

No, you don't have to fit into your skinny jeans by the time the baby's 6 months old, but do aim to get back to your pre-pregnancy weight within one to two years. "Carrying around extra pounds can lead to high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other heart disease risk factors," Dr. Bonow says. Also remember that it's easier to lose weight in your 30s than in your 40s, when your metabolism slows down.

1 Stay Social

It's important to stay connected to friends and family for the sake of your mood and heart. Research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine found that high levels of

But not getting at least seven hours of shut-eye regularly can lead to increased

blood pressure, low-grade inflammation and higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol, all of which are harmful for your blood vessels and heart, explains

Jennifer H. Mieres, MD, a cardiologist at New York University School of Medicine and coauthor of Heart Smart for Black Women and Latinas.

loneliness increase a woman's risk of heart disease by 76 percent. On the flip side, having strong social support can help lower your blood pressure and improve other cardiovascular functions. Set aside time once or twice a week to call friends, or make a monthly dinner date.

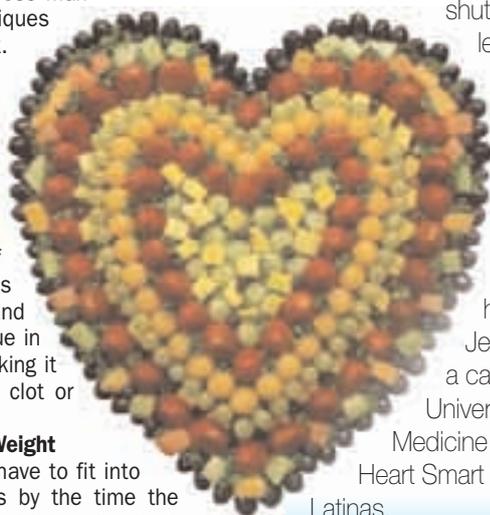
In Your 40s

1 Make Sleep a Priority

Thanks to peri-menopause, fluctuating hormone levels can interfere with a good night's sleep. But not getting at least seven hours of shut-eye regularly can lead to increased blood pressure, low-grade inflammation and higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol, all of which are harmful for your blood vessels and heart, explains Jennifer H. Mieres, MD, a cardiologist at New York University School of Medicine and coauthor of Heart Smart for Black Women and Latinas. Lack of sleep has also been linked to weight gain. So establish good habits: Turn in (and wake up) at the same time every day—even on weekends—and do your best to relax before going to bed, whether it's watching a favorite funny TV show or reading.

1 Reassess Your Risk Factors

You may discover that your cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar levels have changed in this decade, even if you aren't doing anything differently, says Dr. Hayes. In fact, 22 percent of 40-something women have high blood pressure and 50 percent have high cholesterol (a jump from 38 percent of women in their 30s), according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Also, be sure to get your thyroid checked around 45; hypothyroidism (an underactive thyroid gland), which becomes more common as women get older, can negatively affect your cholesterol levels as well as your heart.



1 Step Up Strength Training

You start to lose muscle mass more rapidly in your 40s, which causes your metabolism to slow down since muscle burns more calories than fat. Unfortunately, this makes it harder to stave off those extra pounds. To help maintain muscle and keep your metabolism going, aim for two 15-minute sessions weekly of lifting weights, using a resistance band or doing other toning exercises.

1 Carve out Personal Time

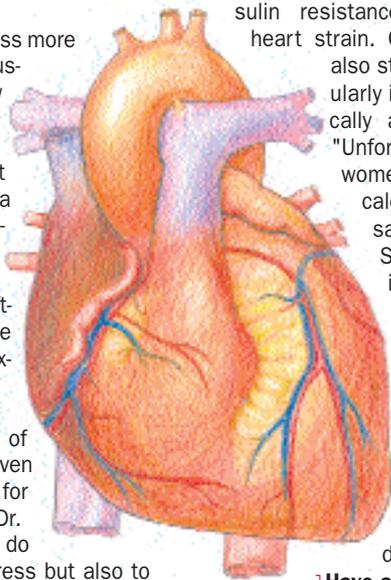
"Between the demands of work and family, it becomes even more challenging to find time for yourself in your 40s," says Dr. Mieres. But it's crucial to do so—not only to help ease stress but also to guard against depression, which commonly crops up in this decade and can raise your risk of heart disease.

"Find at least 10 minutes of 'me' time every day to do something—even if it's just chatting on the phone with a friend—that helps you destress and regroup," says Dr. Mieres.

In Your 50s

1 Move More

Around menopause, you tend to gain extra weight around your belly, which can lead to in-



ulin resistance, inflammation and heart strain. Cardiovascular fitness also starts to decline, particularly if you're not that physically active to begin with. "Unfortunately, at this point, women have to burn more calories to stay at the same weight," Dr. Stevens says. Start taking the stairs instead of the elevator whenever you can, walk faster around the mall, or jog to the mailbox to send letters instead of sticking your hand out the car window as you drive by. Small changes really do add up.

1 Have an ECG

Silent heart abnormalities become more common in your 50s, and an electrocardiogram (ECG) to check your heart's electrical activity can pick them up, says Dr. Goldberg. Also ask your doctor if you should have a stress test; this is especially important if you're just starting to exercise.

1 Add Fiber

Besides being good for your cholesterol and blood sugar, pumping up your fiber intake (think whole grains like oatmeal, brown rice

and flaxseeds, as well as beans, fruits and veggies) can help prevent constipation, which becomes more of a problem as you get older and your digestive system starts to slow down.

In Your 60s

1 Get Even More Vigilant About Screenings

After you go through menopause and get older, your blood pressure and cholesterol tend to go up, and blood vessels get stiffer. "Have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol measured yearly," advises Dr. Goldberg.

1 Consider Medication

If you have hypertension or high cholesterol, the way you've been managing it before may not be enough. "As you get older, you may need more aggressive therapy," Dr. Bonow says. "High blood pressure that was controlled with one medication may now require three to control it." Talk to your doctor about whether you need to add to or adjust your medications to control your risk factors.

1 Be Alert to Symptoms

Now is when the first noticeable symptoms of heart disease may appear, so it's important to know what's normal for your body and be on the lookout for worrisome signs like chest discomfort, shortness of breath or changes in exercise tolerance—meaning you suddenly feel winded going up a flight of stairs or feel unusually tired for no apparent reason, says Dr. Mieres. If these appear, see your doctor pronto!



FOR A CHANGE

EU Govts Move To Reduce Environ Risks To Health

Governments from northern, western, central, southern and eastern Europe signed a declaration pledging to reduce the adverse health impact of environmental threats in the next decade. The text was endorsed by 53 Member States attending the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, Italy on 10-12 March 2010.

Through the Declaration and Commitment to Act, participating governments agreed to implement national programmes to provide equal opportunities to each child by 2020 by ensuring access to safe water and sanitation, opportunities for physical activity and a healthy diet, improved air quality and an environment free of toxic chemicals.

Governments vowed to tackle the adverse health impact of climate change and to reduce social and gender inequalities in exposure to risk. They also pledged to place health at the centre of socioeconomic development through increased investment in new technologies and green jobs. "We need a radically new vision for European health policy to address the biggest health challenges of our Region. This Conference has opened an exciting new chapter in the way European governments work on environment and health - helping to push these closely inter-related issues higher up the political agenda," says Ms Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

Climate change and health - a priority for action: In this first major gathering of health and environment ministers since the Copenhagen conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change last December, European governments pledged to integrate health issues into climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, policies and strategies in all sectors.

Future work will be based on a new

European regional framework for action, entitled Protecting health in an environment challenged by climate change. The document provides a comprehensive roadmap laying out steps and priorities for coordinated international and national action. Delegates also underlined that the health sector, one of the most energy-in-

Evidence is growing that climate change is contributing to an increase in the frequency of natural disasters, such as heatwaves, floods and droughts. Since 1990, the International Disaster Database (EM-DAT) has recorded more than 1200 natural events in the WHO European Region, affecting over 48 million people and causing more than 112 000 deaths, at an estimated loss of more than US\$ 241 billion.

tensive sectors in all countries, should lead moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the public sector by rationalizing energy use. They also agreed to strengthen early-warning surveillance and preparedness systems for extreme weather events and disease outbreaks.

The way forward - support from key delegates: "A significant proportion of Europeans suffers from health problems linked to environmental conditions. Vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women and socially disadvantaged people are particularly affected. Policymakers have the responsibility to address this problem.

The European Commission will play its part by continuing to focus attention across European Union policies on environmental impacts on health," says John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy.

"Integration of environment and health issues into the policies of other sectors, like transport, energy, industry or agricul-

ture, and related investments would in turn reduce impacts and save the costs of inaction.

Environment and health objectives can also serve as an engine to boost innovation and competitiveness: the main challenge now is to address environment and health concerns through socioeconomic policies. The Parma Declaration is an important step to join efforts at local, national and international level in this direction," says Ms Stefania Prestigiacomo, Italian Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea. "The Conference outcomes entrust health sector with a stronger responsibility. Not only can many of the environmental effects be controlled through well-known health-system interventions, but the health sector can take a leading role with other sectors in advocating for a reduction in risk exposure," notes Professor Ferruccio Fazio, Italian Minister of Health.

The future of the European environment and health process: In September 2010, Member States will gather in Moscow for the sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, WHO's highest decision-making body at the regional level, to endorse the outcomes of this Conference through a resolution.

During 2010 and beyond, the European environment and health process will be revitalized through a series of new arrangements.

The governments gathered in Parma agreed to strengthen political coordination between regular ministerial conferences, and will now involve ministers directly in steering the Process - to ensure that cross-sectoral issues are given the highest possible political profile.

Ministers from the 53 European Member States will meet again at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in 2016.

GOPIO concludes successful Convention 2010 In Delhi



GOPIO 2010 Convention Inauguration - From L. R. Mauritius High Commissioner to India Mookhesswur Choineee; GOPIO Exec Vice President Ashook Ramsaran; Deputy Speaker of Mauritius National Assembly Etienne Sinatambou; GOPIO Chairman Inder Singh; GOPIO President Lord Diljit Rana; GOPIO Regional Vice Pres (Europe) Raj Loomba.

'Indian diaspora one people'

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) concluded its very successful Convention 2010 in New Delhi held from 5th January through 6th January, 2010 in conjunction with Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 201 (PBD2010). GOPIO's Convention 2010 was held at The Habitat Centre in New Delhi while its Community Service Awards Banquet was held at the Ashoka Hotel. The conference was formally inaugurated on January 6th at 2:00 PM by Parliamentarian Etienne Sinatambou who is the Deputy Speaker of Mauritius National Assembly.

The inauguration session started with a welcome by K. N. Gupta, Convention Chair and President GOPIO, New Delhi (India) and Lord Diljit Rana, President of GOPIO International (UK), with greetings by Inder Singh, Chairman GOPIO International (USA). Following the traditional Lighting of the Lamp, Deputy Speaker Sinatambou, delivered the keynote address and spoke on the Indian Diaspora as being one people sharing the same heritage and values.

GOPIO execs meet PM's prin secy

On 5th January, executives of GOPIO International met with Mr. T.K.A. Nair, Principal Secretary to India's Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

The meeting took place in the office of Mr. Nair with PMO Director Sudhakar Dalela also participating in the discussions. The meeting was requested by GOPIO International to discuss issues of interest and concern to the global membership of GOPIO and the global Indian Diaspora. The GOPIO delegation included: GOPIO Chairman Inder Singh, GOPIO President Lord Diljit Rana and GOPIO Exec Vice President Ashook Ramsaran.

Topics of discussion included: PIO card for people older than 4 generations; voting rights of NRIs; property scams against NRIs and PIOs; facilitating NRIs/PIOs contribution to India's needy, its development, education of the rural poor, and increase in trade and educational opportunities. PIO issues

GOPIO Convention 2010 Resolutions were given to Mr. Nair at the meeting. GOPIO International looks forward to a separate meeting being scheduled with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to further discuss these issues.

included: GOPIO's leadership initiative for a PIO memorial and museum at the Bhowanee Depot in Kolkotta where Indian laborers were housed from 1838 through 1920 while waiting for emigration to plantations in colonies abroad.

GOPIO Convention 2010 Resolutions were given to Mr. Nair at the meeting. GOPIO International looks forward to a separate meeting being scheduled with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to further discuss these issues. It is anticipated that the meeting with the Prime Minister would be in March.

Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in Delhi a great success

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in partnership with the Government of NCT of Delhi and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD 2010) from 7th - 9th January 2010 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Hon Dr. Manmohan Singh, and President Hon Pratibha Patil delivered the valedictory address at the concluding session of the three-day gathering of PIOs and NRIs from all over the world.

The forum also provided an opportunity not only for the Indian Diaspora to take investment decisions in the country but also to resolve the issues relating to their private property.

Two seminars one on Nano-technology and the other on property-related issues of overseas Indians were held on January 7.

13 NRIs, PIOs get Pravasi Bhartiya samman

The concluding session President Pratibha Patil conferred the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award to 14 distinguished members of the Indian Diaspora for their achievements in life and contribution to the welfare of the Indian community and enhancing India's image overseas. The awards were presented at the valedictory function of the third and concluding day of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2010. The following are the award recipients:

Mohinder Singh Bhullar, a successful businessman in Brunei Darussalam; Yanktesh Piramal Reddy, an Indian origin businessman in Fiji; Dr. Ruby Umesh Pawankar; Suresh Kumar Virmani, a successful engineer, entrepreneur and businessman; Pravin Jamnadas Gordhan, finance minister of South Africa; Tholisah Perumal Naidoo a publisher, journalist and founder of the Indian Academy of South Africa in Durban; Rajni Kanabar a philanthropist; Deepak Mittal, an industrialist and financial expert; Lenny Krishendath Saith minister in the PM's Office in Trinidad & Tobago; Dr. Azad Moopen a physician turned entrepreneur; Mani Lal Bhaumik a scientist, author, educator and philanthropist; Ashok Kumar Mago who has worked actively for the promotion of Indo-US political and economic ties.

Proposed tax for NRIs is too harsh

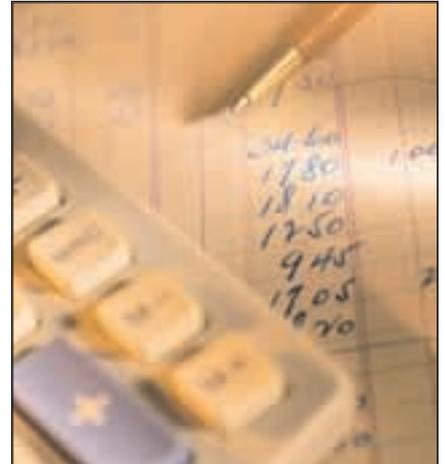
The proposed tax code for NRIs is too harsh for several reasons as follows:

All NRIs do not earn a lot of money. Most of the NRIs are employed in private sector without any job guarantee. For many of them, the disposable income they get is hardly sufficient for them to maintain themselves in the country in which they work. They struggle to save little money and that is because they follow the roots of their culture and are not indulgent in their living habits.

Most of them have aged parents in India and buy a house for the parents to live. Taxing such house property at the very high rates being proposed by the Government of India, treating them as rented, valued at market rate, etc is very harsh treatment of NRIs. For various reasons India is unable to provide help to senior citizens and provide them with a safety net. NRI children provide their parents who are seniors with that help by providing them shelter in their old age. Parents do not pay any rent and in that event the concept of notional income fails. No one believes that the Government of India wants the parents to be sent out to the road but the proposed tax would certainly contribute to that effect. That NRI support for their aging parents should not be affected so as to affect the well being of the seniors they are trying to help.

The fact is that NRIs have contributed a lot for the growth of the country directly and indirectly. Industrialist NRIs contribute by direct investment. Salaried NRIs do so by various small ways. The expansion in the construction industry, especially for residences, is to a very large measure due to their buying residential property in India. In fact, it has contributed to the very large increase in prices of houses/flats which contributed to India's GDP. The new measures will have an adverse effect on the construction industry.

To attract even small investments in India from NRIs, the government wisely initiated the brilliant concept of Overseas Citizen of India. It encouraged them to buy property in India without imposing taxing conditions that are now being proposed to be imposed. It will not be right



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to penalize them retrospectively.

Hence, NRIs should continue to get the exemptions which they get now. It would be too harsh to tax them at the highest slab. It will be too harsh to evaluate on the basis of current market value which is heavily inflated. Evaluating at market value is merely speculative. The owner does not have that cash on hand and it is not right to set the notional value so high.

The very concept of applying market value which is not realized until the property is sold is itself wrong. There is no income when the property is not sold or rented out. Other tax laws such as taxing capital gains take care of that once the property is sold. It is highly wrong to use the concept of market value for any purpose except when the property is sold. How can one pay tax when there is no income. Notional income is no income and is not tangible.

GOPIO KOLKATA LAUNCHED



G OPIO Chairman Inder Singh, founding president and former chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham and Vice President for North American Dr. Piyush Agrawal addressed a meeting organized by GOPIO Life Member Mrudul Pathak, Manmohan Meheshwai and S.K. Sarkar at the Palladian Lanch at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on January 11, 2011. Attended by many prominent community leaders, the meeting decided to launch the chapter. Also present were GOPIO Life member from Columbus, Ohio Nirmal Sinha, GOPIO Toronto President Jay Banerjee, Tapas K. Mazumdar (Brisbane, Australia), Sudha Agrawal (USA) and Sante Chary (USA). Other present included Asha Maheshwari, Suliaman Mohammed (Allahabad/New Delhi), Pawan Maheshwari, S.M.M.Hossain Ashraf, Anil Bhargava, Sandhya Sinha (Patna), Kalyan Kumar Dutta, Advocate Goutam Kansari and R.K. Tripathy.

GOPIO Kolkata Launch - GOPIO International officers and Life Members with the new chapter members

First Kerala Chapter Comes Into Being

The first launch meeting of a Kerala chapter GOPIO-Uzhavoor, an NRI concentrated town, was held at Blossom Health Care in Uzhavoor, Kerala. Attended by over 40 current and former NRIs and those whose children are settled outside, the meeting was organized by GOPIO Life Member and US NRI E.M. Stephen and coordinated by Mr. Thomas Mulakkal of New York. The program was attended by many American NRIs who are settling back to Kerala. Many American NRIs were present at the meeting including Dr. George and Valsa Marangoly, Mr. C.M. Chacko, Mr. Sunil Koozhampala, Mr. Abraham Vattakulam.

The host of the meeting Stephen welcomed to his new health care center and dais that this one of his contribution to his home town. In his welcome address, Mr. Mulakkal said that he attended GOPIO program since its inception and it is an extra ordinary organization bring all Indians to one platform.

The launch meeting was inaugurated by former Governor M.M. Jacob who has been serving as advisor of GOPIO since its inception. Gov. Jacob in his address complimented GOPIO for providing a broad platform for Indians living outside India and help those Indian communities when they were in crisis. He recollected his trip to Zurich to inaugurate the GOPIO convention when Fiji Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry was taken hostage and the GOPIO campaign to release him as well as GOPIO delegation meeting with the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

"GOPIO made a big difference in Indian community mobilization for the causes of the Indian Diaspora community and India," said Gov. Jacob. See interview with former central minister and Meghalaya governor M.M. Jacob at

Gopio in Mumbai



A wedding in Hyderabad, a reception in Lahore, a home in Dubai. This is what India's tennis ace Sania Mirza and Pakistan's stylish cricketer Shoaib Malik, 28 have in mind. Everyone wants more details ever since news broke that Mirza will marry Malik.

On March 30, Sania Mirza appeared before the media and officially announced the date of her marriage - April 11. The reception will be held on April 15. Sania said she and Shoaib will settle in Dubai after marriage.

Sania revealed that she met Shoaib for the first time 6-7 years ago. However, the tennis star made it clear that she play for India while Shoaib will play for Pakistan. "I will decide on career course after playing in Olympics in 2012," said Sania. Earlier, Shoaib Malik told a Pakistani news channel that he will be getting married to the Indian tennis star very soon. Sources in Pakistan say the former Pakistan Captain and his family will leave Lahore for Delhi on April 7.



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Immediate Hinterland

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Secondary Hinterland

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

Connectivity

By Road

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

By Rail

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

Development Potential & Planned Facility

Phase I - 5 Berths :

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

SEZ & FTWZ

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Dedicated world-class infrastructure for warehousing & logistics
State of the art cargo handling equipment transportation & support infrastructure facilities

Cargo Potential

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- Steel
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