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Resolution 1248 On Indo-Georgia Friendship A Dream Comes True

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: Diwali on October 28, 2008 lit up and further sweetened the growing close relationship between the State of Georgia and the Republic of India as Ambassador Ronen Sen accepted the Resolution 1248 on Indo-Georgia friendship amidst thunderous ovation in the historic Senate Chamber of Georgia. Resolution 1248 which was moved by Senators Judson Hill of the 32nd district and Chip Pearson of the 51st and adopted on March 28, 2008, essentially underscores the endeavors for cultural, economic and educational cooperation and further cementing of the bond of friendship between Georgia and India.



Gov. Sonny Perdue, Ambassador Ronen Sen with community members at the State Capitol.

The efforts of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia and the Gandhi Foundation of USA paid dividends when their respective petitions transformed their dreams into realities. The architect for the draft of the Resolution 1248, Subash Razdan, President of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia said, "It was a befitting and logical conclusion for the efforts underway over the past three years when two petitions were formally presented to the Indian Minister of Non Resident India affairs, Hon. Vyalar Ravi at a luncheon organized by the Gandhi Foundation of USA at the Haveli Restaurant in Atlanta. One petition sought for a direct flight from Atlanta to India and the second petition sought for an India Consulate in Atlanta. Fortunately for the Indian community in Georgia, we had a devoted friend in Ambassador Ronen Sen, who also saw merit to these petitions and worked relentlessly to make this dream a reality."

India's U.S. Ambassador, Ronen Sen, who was appreciated in the Resolution 1248 for his efforts to promote peace and growth of cultural, academic, economic, and educational ties between India and the USA, told the gathering celebrating Indo-Georgia friendship in the Senate Chambers, that the Indian Consulate in Atlanta will be a full consulate, not only handling visas

and other services but also promoting "cultural, commercial, educational, and scientific links between Georgia and India. Our relationship is burgeoning. We are just starting to realize the potential. Everything points to a very robust relationship. Atlanta was chosen for a consulate in part because of its strong Indian-American community and its strategic location in the U.S. It's a hub, a transportation hub," Sen said. He added, "Delta Air Line's new direct flight between Atlanta and Mumbai was also a favorable factor."

Sen reiterated the depth of the bond between India and USA, as evidenced by the recent Indo-US nuclear deal and the growing trade and commerce between the two countries. Ambassador appreciated the efforts by Senator Judson Hill, Asian American Chamber of Commerce and the Gandhi Foundation of USA in passing of the Resolution #1248 which is bound to open up new vistas for bi-lateral trade, cultural opportunities, and educational exchanges between Georgia and India

"Indo-Georgian cooperation has been gradually evolving with frequent exchange visits by dignitaries from Georgia and India. Indian Embassy has been working very closely with their American counterparts to broaden the scope of mutual interaction of multi-nationals such as The Coca Cola Co, Delta, et al. Today, India and the Peach State share a robust economic and educational relationship, a fact made clear during the recent passage of this resolution. Additionally, recently there was a proposal to inter-twine Atlanta and Ahmedabad as Sister Cities," remarked Razdan, who also serves as the Chairman of the Gandhi Foundation of USA.

Antony Thaliath, Executive Director of GFUSA said, "This is an appropriate resolution between two entities that have two of the greatest apostles of peace, Gandhiji and M.L. King Jr. whose legacies are cherished by the majestic life size Gandhi Statue and the King Center."

What Obama Presidency Means For India

New Delhi: (IANS) With Democrat Barack Obama winning the White House, India is hopeful that its multi-faceted ties with the US, revolutionized by a landmark nuclear deal during the Bush tenure, will acquire new force.

"The real strategic partnership between India and the US will begin with a new government in Washington and New Delhi next year," Lalit Mansingh, former ambassador of India to the US, told IANS soon after it became clear that Obama had rewritten American history by becoming the first African American to win the White House.

Trade and investment, defence and agriculture - all those areas which were sidetracked by nuclear deal would now come to the fore, said Mansingh.

"Indians should celebrate change in the political structure of the US. Obama's presidency begins a new chapter in America's political history, a new chapter in America's engagement with the world and a great opportunity for India to combat terrorism in its region," said Chintamani Mahapatra, professor of American studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"I visualise a very bright future for India-US relations. He would be the first Democratic president in the White House after Bill Clinton who began the path-breaking turnaround in India-US ties during his visit to India in 2000. He will build upon that legacy," Mahapatra told IANS.

Less than a fortnight ago, the 47-year-old Obama had promised in an exclusive interview to IANS to make strong strategic partnership with India a "top priority" of his presidency and described New Delhi as "a natural strategic partner" for Washington in the 21st century. Obama, who liked to keep Mahatma Gandhi's portrait in his Senate office, is also known among Indian Americans for his fondness for Indian dal.

"Bush was more muscular in his approach to what he called the Global War on Terror. Obama is likely to broaden the alliance against terror and use a combination of diplomacy and force that may be better suited for India's interests in the region," said Mahapatra.



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Jewelry Business Lacks Luster This Festive Season

Sag In Economy; Hike In Duty Affect Sales

BY MUBASHRA SIDDIQUI

Atlanta: Despite the major festivals of the Indian-subcontinent being celebrated so close together, gold sales across the city remained slow.

Traditionally, Indian women often flock to buy at least a modest piece of jewelry during Eid, Diwali and the upcoming Christmas. This year, however, jewelers saw a substantial reduction in their customer base, which many say was almost halved. With Eid and the major occasion of Diwali already having passed by, they don't have much hope for December sales either.

According to Sikander Chandrani, owner of Meena Jewelers based in Decatur, there are two main reasons for this downward slump that has left major retailers like him worried: the current sag in the economy and the recent imposition of a 5.5 per cent duty on almost all gold pieces imported from India.



"Initially, duty was imposed on some gold pieces in July 2007 but since this year, almost all gold imported from India has a 5.5 per cent duty. And while gold prices have quadrupled in the past few years, the 5.5 per cent import duty has remained unchanged... This means that from around 44 cents per gram, today the import duty charge is roughly \$ 1.6 per gram today. This is huge for a value-added industry," Chandrani explained, adding that most gold retailers just don't have that kind of a profit margin.

Naturally then, the charge of this import duty, or at least a part of it, is passed on to the customer thereby further increasing the price of gold jewelry.

The current economic slump, however, also cannot be ignored. Says Parag Shah, manager at Legacy Jewels, "Gold jewellery is not a necessity but rather a luxury item. With people having to budget for other things, they are rethinking their spending on gold. Asians - Indians in particular - do have disposable income for gold, but rather than say, for example, spending \$100 that they had prior budgeted for gold, they would now spend \$50."

Dharmesh Bhura, an owner of Veeraj Jewelers, also acknowledged the significant impact of the downturn in the economy. Elaborated Bhura, that while Atlanta remains the major hub for gold purchase in the South-Eastern region for Asian immigrants with customers driving in from Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, etc. the recent hikes in gas prices further

deterred customers from buying gold. With gas prices having hit highs of \$4 per gallon, the average customer is hesitant to uptake the cost of travel to spend about the same amount on gold itself, Bhura said.

The Atlanta Indian Jewelers Association plans to lobby against the 5.5 per cent import duty and to make India a part of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) again...

Shameem K., a potential gold customer in Alabama, agreed with Bhura's assessment saying that the gas prices did make her rethink her decision to invest in gold, "I had set aside a budget for some gold purchase for the festive season but decided it would not be worth the hassle to travel all the way especially with how the gas prices have been."

Additionally, say the jewelers, since the gold market is so volatile at the moment, many customers are rethinking their decision to buy gold until prices fall or somewhat stabilize. Indeed, many are adopting a 'wait-and-watch' attitude. Those considering travel back home are far more in favor of purchasing gold where they can at least avoid the import duty charge.

For Haritha Manda, a home-maker, this is very much the scenario. She explains, "Normally, during Diwali or Dussehra, we usually buy some gold - mostly as coins. This year, however, I haven't bought any. Since I know I shall be traveling to India next month, I shall consider buying gold back home."

Currently, the Atlanta Indian Jewelers Association plans to lobby against the 5.5 per cent import duty and to make India a part of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) again thereby making them exempt from it. Bhura, who is the chairperson and treasurer of the association, said that they would start their petition process before the end of the year.

Chandrani explained the significance of such immediate action, "Usually, an import duty is charged on foreign goods to give the local market an edge. But here in the US, there is virtually zero production of 22 or 24 carat gold jewellery that is favored by Indians. So there is hardly a need for such a high import duty."

For the time being, however, like many of their customers, the jewelers too have taken on a cautious and watchful approach. "It is very difficult at this point to predict what's going to happen. Once we have a new president, new economic policies in place, let's see. For now, it's all just a game," said Shah.

And one unvarying factor in this game, to the jewelers, is that whatever the cost all the jewellery must be imported from India. While other manufacturing nations such as Oman are exempt from the import duty, jewelers in Atlanta would not consider turning to them. "The Indian *karigari* (skill-work) remains unmatched," they all unanimously conclude.

Convenience Store Clerk Shot To Death

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta: An Indian convenience store clerk, Babu Augustine, was shot to death at the Matt's Food Mart where he worked, located on 400 block of North Broad Street in Monroe, a little after quarter past twelve on



Thursday, October 23, 2008. He was 56 and hailed from Adoor city in Kerala.

As per Walton Tribune, the police have arrested and charged Nicholas Laron Crawford 22, of 1120 Fairview Drive, Monroe for the murder.

Crawford remains in Walton County Jail and has been charged with felony murder, armed robbery and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Additional charges are pending.

According to sources, an African American male dressed in black allegedly entered the store with a pistol in his hand while Babu Augustine was restocking. Babu turned around when he heard a noise to find a gun pointed at him. It is said that the two got into a verbal altercation and Babu was shot one time, Crawford then went to the cash counter and on his way back shot Babu two more times. Babu was later admitted to Walton Regional Medical Center and eventually pronounced dead. Monroe Police Department identified Crawford as the suspect and brought him in for questioning. He eventually confessed to the crime and was arrested.

"Babu was one of the most spiritual and courageous people I knew", Mathew Jacob, a friend of Babu Augustine told this reporter. Babu belonged to the Saint Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Atlanta and his Parish Priest Fr. Kurian Thomas fondly talked about how much Babu had done in his short life span. He also said that the courage that Babu displayed may have caused his death, but he died knowing he was doing the right thing. Babu's brother who lives in NY arrived in Atlanta for his funeral. Babu also has two sisters.

Babu Augustine, according to Mathew came to the US about three years ago to create a better life for his family. An American dream shattered, met with tragedy no one anticipated. Sometimes, "Man proposes, God disposes," as Fr. Kurian Thomas put it.

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United Central Bank Opens New Branch At Global Mall

BY VEENA RAO

Atlanta: United Central Bank, a Texas based community bank opened its full service facility at the Global Mall off Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Norcross on October 3rd. The bank first

Ward said he was confident that the economic downturn would be resolved soon and the future would be bright for the economy and for the bank.

Speaking to this reporter, UC Bank founder and chairman of the board James D. Yoo said the bank's philosophy was simple and fundamental.



Photos by Krish Photography

expanded its services into Georgia over three years ago with a branch in Duluth. Over 200 people, including Norcross Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Allen, Georgia State Senator Curt Thompson (D-5) and the top management brass of the bank attended the grand opening ceremony at the Ashiana Banquet Hall.

UC Bank president & CEO Keith Ward said the bank would work hard towards exceeding customer expectations in Georgia. "We cater to a diverse customer base. We speak 25 different languages in the bank," he said.

"We have a \$100 million portfolio even as we open our doors," he said. "Our philosophy is to get to know the market, build a network and build business. We finance more hotels and gas stations than any other bank. We get repeat Indian and Pakistani business."

Yoo said the UC Bank was truly a community bank that caters to the Asian communities. "We are not an Indian, Pakistani, Korean or Chinese bank. We cater to all the Asian communities."

He said the economic downturn did not worry him. "The recession has nothing to do with



us. Our customers need money. Small communities need small community banks to support them."

"Our bank offers all the high-tech facilities of larger banks, plus the advantages of language, culture, relationship and personal service," he added.

Kaushik (Keith) Patel, VP and Regional Manager, Georgia, said the location at the Global Mall is suitable for a multi-cultural, diversified bank. "Different communities use the Global Mall. It is easily accessible from Buford Highway and I-85. Also, Jimmy Carter Boulevard is a very busy area." He said, apart from the Indian and Pakistani communities that visit the mall, the Chinese and

Koreans do business and shop in the area. An example, he said, is the newly opened Hong Kong mall, a Chinese supermarket at Jimmy Carter.

"If the communities unite, he added, they will prosper," he added.

At the grand opening, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Allen extended the bank and its staff his welcome to the city of Norcross. Georgia State Senator Curt Thompson (D-5) read out a proclamation on behalf of the Georgia Senate and Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel honoring James D. Yoo with honorary citizenship of Georgia.

Moving Memorial Service For Dr. Aruna Prasad Kancherla

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: A very dignified and moving Memorial Service attended by community dignitaries, cross section of friends, family, colleagues and friends was held in the Banquet Hall of the Hindu Temple of Atlanta, Riverdale, Georgia, on November 1 to honor and celebrate the life of the well known, well respected and well loved community veteran Dr. Aruna Prasad Kancherla, who passed away on October 25, at the age of 64.



The somber ceremony started with a recital of shlokas and prayers for 'Atma- Shanti' by Pandit Phani Kumar, the Chief Priest of the Temple and Priest Ranga Chari. Many glowing and touching eulogies and loving tributes were delivered at the Service.

The President of the Temple, Dr. Ravi Sharma welcomed all and requested the gathering to observe two minutes of silence in respect of the departed soul. He said that it was a privilege for him to work alongside Dr. Kancherla and following him over a long period and later in taking

on the responsibility as President of the Temple. He said that like many in the audience he has pleasant recollections of cordial interactions with him and has nothing but fond memories of his inspiring life "It is with that sense of gratitude and responsibility that I am standing before you today on behalf of the Kancherla family who has contributed so much to the community."

Madhu welcomed all on behalf of his mother Smt. Parvathy, his sister Sree Ratna, his wife Madhuri, sons Sohan Arun and Devin, Aunt Rupa and other family members and thanked everyone for their love and prayers during his father's illness. In his moving eulogy, he paid an eloquent tribute to his father and his friends, "You are the greatest generation in our culture for your love and sacrifice. My dad was born in a small village in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on March 4, 1944. He lost his parents at an early age. He married my mom Parvathy in 1964 and graduated from Guntur Medical College as an MD in 1967. He trained in plastic surgery for three years in Patna University and was a Professor at Guntur Medical College from 1970-1972. He had big dreams, aspirations and ambition so he, my mom and I came to the U.S. in 1972. He completed his residency in Anesthesia at Illinois Masonic Center in Chicago and practiced anesthesia for three years during which time my younger sister Sree Ratna was born. In 1979, my family moved to the South, where he set up his practice at George H. Lanier Memorial Hospital in



L to R: Madhu, Parvathy, Sree Ratna and Sohan Arun. Photo by Mahadev Desai.

Valley, Alabama and resided in West Point, Georgia. He had his solo practice for over 20 years and also became Board Certified in Pain Management in 1998. He practiced in his Pain Management Clinic for a few years and moved to Atlanta in 2003 where he joined comprehensive Pain Management Clinic and worked till 2007.

Throughout the years, my dad enjoyed serving the community in numerous positions. He was on the Board of Directors for George H. Lanier Memorial Hospital, a founding trustee and also President of the Hindu Temple of Atlanta, President of Telugu Association of Metro Atlanta (TAMA), and President of Guntur Alumni. Not

only that, but despite his success and rewarding professional career, he never forgot his roots, and ever so generous, he not only helped me and my sister for education and my marriage but also many relatives in India. My dad was bald but good looking. He was an avid tennis and chess player, a well-read man and a great philosopher. He enjoyed traveling. He was a wonderful father to me and my sister, meaningful in conversation and a great mentor. He passed away but I have such overwhelming love for him that I do not feel sadness. He will always be in our hearts."

Sri Sri Breathes New Energy At Art Of Living Seminar



BY VEENA RAO

The Art of Living Foundation, an educational and humanitarian nonprofit, hosted a meditation and yoga seminar 'MY2008' with the organization's founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at AmericasMart in downtown Atlanta on Oct. 25-26.

The seminar was part of Sri Sri's six-city tour to promote a "Violence-Free, Stress-Free America."

The spacious exhibit hall at AmericasMart's newly opened Building Two West Wing was filled with ardent Art of Living followers and curious first timers who wanted to meet Sri Sri and adopt his pranayama, yoga and meditation techniques.

Sri Sri got the participants acquainted with his rhythmic breathing techniques like aalom vilom, bhrumari and kapal bhati. He then guided them into Yoga nidra, which he said, is a useful tool in bringing relaxation to the mind and body.

"Remember the three sutras of meditation," he said. "I am nothing, I want nothing, and I am not going to do anything."

"Meditation is the food for the soul. When you meditate, you become aware of your intellect, and a new life begins," he added.

The highlight of the first day's program was the Q&A session with the spiritual master. Participants wrote their question on a flash card, which was then dropped into a basket. Out of the hundreds of questions, Sri Sri picked out a few interesting ones, which he then proceeded to answer with his trademark wit and depth of wisdom.

To the question- what is the purpose of life- he replied: "The one who knows will not tell you. The one who tells you does not know. He said basic questions like where am I going, what is the purpose of my life can be answered through meditation."

With characteristic humor, he said enlightenment is easier than the US presidential elections: "No money or talent is required. It is within the reach of anyone with focus."

His advice to an American born teenager: "Deepen your roots and broaden your vision."

To a question on how to fix the corrupt and corrupting political system, he said: "Spiritualize

politics, socialize business and secularize religion."

The reason for the world's financial crisis: "Greed, greed and greed. America's greed has taken over the world."

To a question on the efficacy of Vedanta, he said: "Vedanta and science are parallel. The Art of Living is open to scientific understanding. Both Vedanta and Science stress on experiencing first, believing later. Religion, on the other hand, expects you to believe first- then you might, some day, experience."

"Knowledge of "what it is" is Science. Knowledge of "who I am" is spirituality," he added.

To a question on overcoming short temper, Sri Sri said: "Leave a little room for imperfection."

Sri Sri even took up a question on whether he liked being treated by his followers like god. He said, seeing god in each other is a cultural thing. "In India, the mother, father, teacher and guests are treated like God. It is common to touch your parents' feet or the teacher's feet as greeting."

"But many times I tell my followers to greet me with folded hands," he added.

The morning session began with Michael Fischman, who leads the foundation in the US. He got the participants to break the ice with each other, to make for a more informal, relaxed atmosphere. Each participant had to partner with a complete stranger and talk about himself. Then the group was expanded to include another pair. Each person had to then introduce his partner to the new pair with details he had just learned about him.

The fun game made way to an intense yoga and breathing exercise with Gaurav. The afternoon session started with fun games conducted by Poonam, before Sri Sri took over.

The seminar was a place to recharge and reinvigorate. For many, it was the compelling presence of Sri Sri and his words of wisdom that was the main draw. Many curious first timers said they would continue to practice the yoga and breathing techniques they had learned. The ocean of prana (energy), as Sri Sri would say, was certainly a vibrant one!

Dr. Ravindra Kumar Comes Close to Unseating Long Time Incumbent in County Race

BY VEENA RAO

Atlanta: Democrat Dr. Ravindra Kumar, who gained recognition as the first Indian-American in Georgia to win a primary election, came within 1200 votes of unseating long time incumbent, Republican Louise Radloff in a close, exciting race for the Gwinnett County Board of Education (District 5). Around 700 votes were yet to be counted at the time of going to the press.

In a county race that was a complete sweep for Republicans, Dr. Kumar has been credited with creating a real challenge for the opponent. The spirited fight put up by Dr. Kumar, a complete political novice, gained the appreciation of the Democratic Party officers, and the notice of Republican Party workers.

"The party president has suggested that I consider running in the 2010 elections at the state level," said Dr. Kumar.

Analyzing reasons for his narrow loss, Dr. Kumar said: "The Democratic Party President

said that I lost the race due to a low voter turnout. In the 2004 Presidential election the voter turnout was 80%, and this election the Secretary of State had predicated a 90-92% turnout. Unfortunately, the actual voter turnout this time was 67%."

Dr. Kumar also felt that a few more volunteers and financial support from the Indian communities would have helped change the outcome of the election.

While his opponent Radloff, (who has been on the Gwinnett County School Board for over 36 years), was highly visible at Indian community events, Dr. Kumar's fresh outlook gained the support of the Gwinnett County Association of Educators and the United School Employees Association, which represent teachers and bus drivers respectively.

Dr. Kumar is a faculty member and researcher at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

He lives with his wife Mina and teenage sons Ritesh and Saket in Gwinnett County's District 5 area.



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Asian Procurement Meet Explores Business Match-Making

BY RAVI R. PONANGI

Atlanta: The seventh annual Asian procurement symposium organized by the Asian American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) of Georgia was held on October 7, in the Arkwright auditorium, Georgia Power Corporate Office, downtown, Atlanta. Subash Razdan, president of Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, in his opening remarks informed the participants that Asian American chamber was founded by Josephine Tan and others in 1995 and has now become well known not only in Georgia but in the entire nation. He also stated that the annual procurement symposiums are drawing the attention of more and more businesses with every passing year and providing one platform to bring together minority businesses, private, public sectors and government agencies.

Honorable Mayor Eva Galambos, 'City of Sandy Springs' in her key note address presented an overview of the city of Sandy Springs and remarked Sandy Springs is home to 98,000 residents who make this Georgia as the sixth largest city and the second largest in the metro Atlanta area. The city has several homely restaurants, shopping arcades, historic sites and picturesque local and national park sites. The city is home to Fortune 500 companies and world-class health care facilities. She said the city



Photo by Ravi R. Ponangi

encourages small business owners and claimed there are many businesses run by immigrants and they do business with many other countries. She

also informed that we are having strong bonds with China and others. The atmosphere in the city administration is conducive and having

infrastructure facilities for any business to come and thrive in the city. She asserted that we are quite open and all procedures are quick and smooth. The Mayor concluded her address by inviting all to the city of Sandy Springs.

A panel consisting of Andrew Gentile, Managing Director of Prudential Finances, Tony Greene from Georgia Department of Economic Development and Ken Compton of Georgia spiritedly discussed on the theme of the symposium "Business Match-Making". Rosemary Jones of Turner Broadcasting Station moderated the proceedings of the panel discussion. The panel has presented their views in a question and answer format. All the speakers were experts in the field of small business certifications, business relationships, business development, supply diversity, procurement etc., Panel speakers were drawn from private, public and Government sectors and they are all well respected in their respective fields.

At the commencement of the symposium, William Rainwater, C&ED of Georgia Power welcomed the gathering and stated Georgia Power is proud to associate itself in a symposium that is being held to promote the interests of small business owners.

Dr. Josephine Tan of Georgia Power, founder president of AACC/ Governor's Asian American Commission for a new Georgia, proposed a vote of thanks.

Families Throng Global Mall For Weekend Of Fun

BY VEENA RAO

Atlanta: Over 6000 people thronged the Global Mall in Norcross on October 18 and 19 for the sixth annual Global Mela; a celebration of Diwali and Eid. The weekend long fair was a fun event for the whole family and included cultural programs, kids activities, special deals on shopping and plenty of specially priced food.

"The mela was well appreciated by the community," said a happy Shiv Aggarwal, owner of Global Mall. "People visited on Saturday, and told their friends about the mela. Hence, the crowd was even better on Sunday," he said.

The family affair included free games, cotton candy, popcorn, balloons, face painting and arts & crafts for kids. Also, there were four magic shows each day.

"People got bargains on shopping," said Aggarwal. "At other melas, vendors hike their prices. At the Global Mela, vendors slashed their prices for the special occasion."

The cultural programs at the Impact Conference Center on Sunday were well attended. Atlanta dance schools and groups

including Kruti Dance Academy, Nritya Natya Kala Bharti, Anupa Thakurta, the Silent Killers and the Georgia Tech Bhangra group showcased local talent to an appreciative audience.

Several non-profits like Raksha, Ekal Vidyalaya and others had set up booths at the venue. The Art of Living conducted a one-hour seminar that was attended by over 70 people.

Aggarwal thanked the community and the host of volunteers for their support.

"Every year, the mela is getting more recognition," he said. "The economy being slow, the retailers may have had a lower volume on sales this year, but overall, the response was tremendous."



Indian Culture & Food At Centennial Olympic Park

BY VEENA RAO

Atlanta: For the third year in a row, The Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America, Atlanta Chapter, celebrated Diwali at the Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta on October 12th. Several hundred people joined in the 'free for the public' celebrations that included cultural programs and free lunch.

Families could be seen enjoying their day out- appreciating the cultural program and the delicious vegetarian lunch, while children bustled about getting henna on their hand and their face painted. Several people brought their mainstream American friends along, to acquaint them with a dose of Indian culture and food. A raffle draw served as a fundraiser for VHP. The winner, Vidushi Gupta, took home a gold pendant from Malani Jewelers.

Incredibly talented students from several Atlanta groups like Andaaz entertainment, Tarang school of Music & Arts, Bal Vihar and others showcased their talents on the outdoor stage. The variety program included patriotic songs, classical Indian dances from different parts of India, Bollywood inspired songs and dances-even Bharat Natyam on roller skates by Adithya Prem, a young dancing prodigy! Free henna and face painting added color to the event.

Rachana Gupta and Ashok Goyal were the emcees for the event.

The program was supported by Atlanta associations like the Gujarati Samaj, Sanatan Mandir,



Hindu Temple of Atlanta, Riverdale, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Ekal Vidyalaya foundation, Jai Mata Di Group, Global Mall, Sandeep Savla, ACG, BAPS temple, Shakti Mandir and others.

VHP Atlanta Chapter president Kusum Khurana said the objective of the Diwali program was to unite all Hindus- "bring all Indian communities together and to expose our culture to mainstream Americans and tell them more about Diwali."

"We have a lot of temples and associations here," she said. "The VHP provides a platform for everybody to come together. We also take up causes like misrepresentation of Hinduism in textbooks here."

Khurana said she hoped the program would get exposure, considering that it was held at Centennial Olympic Park, which is right opposite CNN Center- both prime Atlanta locations.

Gandhi Foundation Celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's 139th Birth Anniversary



Photo by Ravi R. Ponangi.

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: The Gandhi Foundation of USA (GFUSA), a national organization based in Atlanta committed to spreading the message of peace and non-violence of the two greatest apostles of peace Gandhi and King, celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's 139th Birth Anniversary at the MLK Jr. National Historic Site on a beautiful clear, sunny afternoon, Thursday, October 2. "October 2, Gandhi's Birthday, has a special significance to the world", said Subash Razdan, Chairman of GFUSA. Razdan added, "Today, Presidential candidate Obama issued a commemoration tribute from his campaign office honoring Gandhi." Senator Obama, in his tribute wrote, Quote: "Gandhi's significance is universal. Countless people around the world have been touched by his spirit and example – his victory in turn inspired a generation of young Americans to peacefully wipe out a system of overt oppression that had endured for a century, and more recently led to velvet revolutions in Eastern Europe and extinguished apartheid in South Africa. Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke of their great debt to Gandhi. His portrait hangs in my office to remind me that real change will not come from Washington - it will come when the people, united, bring it to Washington." Unquote.

The Executive Director, GFUSA, Antony Thaliath who succeeded Late Giriraj Rao, welcomed all gathered in reverence for the Mahatma, especially the representatives of Georgia Organizations, social and community activists, university students and visitors from outside Georgia, and officers of GFUSA. Thaliath gave a brief background about the vision of and the struggle to get the Statue of a foreign leader in the USA. Adding, "The Statue is proving to be a big magnet as more than 800,000 visitors come to the King Historic site annually to marvel and pay homage to the invaluable bond between MLK Jr. and the Mahatma."

Razdan, thanked all those who had taken valuable time off from their busy schedules to attend the homage at the majestic Statue on a

working day. Razdan welcomed some out of country visitors to join in the celebrations at the Statue. He narrated a brief history of the dedication of the Gandhi Statue and the endeavor to make the dream come true, adding, "The installation and dedication of the Gandhi Statue in the M.L. King, Jr., National Historic Site is significant and important because it is the first time that the U S Department of the Interior, which administers the National Park Service and historic sites, has permitted such a memorial on Federal lands. The

B4U 'S Dazzling 'Bapushahi Dairo' Wows Atlanta Community

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Atlanta: Atlanta's well known B4U entrepreneur Nadir Jiwani organized his first ever scintillating 'Bapushahi Dairo', by Bhanubhai Vora's famed Mumbai based Swarkinnari Group, at the Sardar Patel Bhavan, Gujarati Samaj Hall on Sun-



Photo by Mahadev Desai

day evening, October 19. The event was graced by the attendance of President of Gujarati Samaj, Navin Patel, past President Vinodbhai Patel, Board members Navin Shah, Amit Shah, Nadirbhai's family and friends and leading community dignitaries.

After a sumptuous Kathiawadi dinner of khichdi and kadhi, Atlanta's performing arts icon Mustafa Ajmeri, welcomed all and introduced

National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) - the largest grassroots national umbrella organization in the USA, with the support of the Embassy of India, the Government of India, the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, the King Center, and the Georgia Human Relations Commission, along with a number of Indian-American, Asian-American, African-American and other mainstream community organizations all came together in harmony and enthusiasm for this memorial to fructify. The dream became a reality with the installation and dedication of the statue of the Mahatma on the cold and windy morning of January 24, 1998 by the Honorable Andrew Young." He exhorted the visiting guests to spend some time in the Visitor Center, Ebenezer Baptist Church, the crypts of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King, the Freedom Hall, including the Gandhi Room and Dr. King's Birth Home.

One of the visitors, Johannah Duffy, a research Fellow and a lecturer at the University of Nottingham, England said that she was very happy to participate in today's Gandhi Birthday anniversary celebrations. "It has been a very rewarding and inspiring experience for me and I will always cherish the memory," she said.

GFUSA Board member, John Naugle, commented about how Atlanta can be the world's biggest Global Peace Garden with the triangle formed by the Carter Center, King Center and the Gandhi Center in the larger

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Discover Human Glory With Swami Nirbhayananda



BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Atlanta: Swami Nirbhayananda Saraswathi, the president of Ramakishna Vivekananda Ashrams in Bijapur and Gadag in Karnataka, India has been touring USA and other parts of the world spreading the message of Swami Vivekananda and will be in Atlanta between Nov 3rd and Dec 1st 2008. He is the also the leading force behind ashrams in Dharwar, Hubli, Ranebennur, Gulbarga, Bidar, Shimoga and Chitradurga in Karnataka.

Universal Peace Federation (www.upf.org), an organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has conferred the "Ambassador of Peace" title upon Swamiji.

Swamiji was invited to the UPF Assembly in New York Sept 10-23, 2007 to present a prayer on behalf of Hinduism for the departed souls in the tragedy of Sept 11, 2001.

In July 2007, he was in Seoul to act as religious advisor from Hinduism for Inter-religious cultural festival. Swamiji participated in the 4th World Parliament of Religions in Barcelona and spoke on the subject 'India's Educational Initiatives'.

He has addressed crowds in Genoa & Turin Universities of Italy. In 2008, Swamiji was invited to participate in WAVES (World Association for Vedic Studies) 2008-7th International Conference (Jun 27-29) at University of Central Florida in Olando, FL. Swamiji, as a guest speaker has talked about the Indian Education System on FM radio under Indira Gandhi National Open University.

He is a regular speaker in Chandana and eTV channels. To learn more about Swamiji you may log on to <http://www.humanglory.org>.

Swamiji's main focus of discourses during his stay in Atlanta will be on Power of Positive thinking, Glory that was India and Karmayoga.

He will also hold bhajans and lectures regularly. Those interested are welcome to call for details. Please contact Bala or Nagu Inamdar at 770.795.0801 for any further information.

Bhanu Vora and six members of his troupe." Swarkinnari Group is no stranger to Atlanta. The 21 year old Group has traveled to many parts of the world. This year, it has performed over 40 shows in the U.S. It has a wide ranging repertoire including raas-garba, Jain Stavans, bhajans, wedding songs, Gujarati and Hindi songs, ghazals and quawwali, and hasya-ras (jokes). It has also produced DVDs of uplifting bhajans. Thanks to Nadirbhai for organizing this event' Please sit back and enjoy.'

After extending his hearty welcome and thanking Nadirbhai, Vora said, "We have always enjoyed visiting and performing in Atlanta, because the audience here is very warm-hearted, appreciative and receptive. Through our 'dairo' we try not only to entertain but also to keep

alive our sweet mother-tongue Gujarati and also our national language Hindi and offer glimpses of our rich culture and heritage We thank Nadirbhai, Mustafabhai, Gujarati Samaj and you all for inviting us. "

Tripti Chhaya began with a beautiful recitation of 'vigneshwaraya vardaaya surapriyaya.' Vora

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NJ Sikhs Demand Action Against Hate Crime Incidents

Jersey City (New Jersey): (IANS) Agitated by two incidents of hate crime in less than a month, the Sikh community of New Jersey has demanded immediate action by police to nab the attackers.

A delegation of Sikh community met the Mayor of Carteret City in New Jersey where the incident happened, urging him to take a comprehensive response



Ajit Singh Chima

to the two incidents of hate crime against them.

In a meeting with Mayor Daniel J Reiman early this week, Sikh community members feared such incidents

could increase if no action is taken against those responsible for it.

The first incident was reported Oct 8 when Gagandeep Singh, a grade five student, was attacked by an unidentified assailant who according to the victim was wearing a mask. Several punches were knocked at him.

The second incident occurred on Oct 30 when, Ajit Singh Chima, 69, was again hit by punches several times on his face and other parts of the body by an unidentified assailant. Cheema suffered several fractures around his eyes and jaw.

Police said both the incidents are being investigated as hate crimes. No arrest has been made so far, which has agitated the Sikh community.

During their meeting with the Carteret mayor early this week, the community leaders alleged the incidents of hate crime against them have increased in recent months. However, only a few of them have been reported as people are afraid of registering a case and reporting to the police, they said.

Carteret has an estimated population of 1,000 Sikhs, while there are about 25,000 Sikhs in New Jersey.

Washington-based Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund has said that they intend to take up the issue with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

US Jobless Rate Rises To 6.5 Percent

Washington: (DPA) Unemployment in the United States rose to 6.5 percent in October, after remaining steady for two months at 6.1 percent, the US Labor Department reported Friday.

The figure meant that another 603,000 people were out of work, and represented the loss of 240,000 non-farm jobs.

Over the past 12 months, the number of US unemployed has increased by 2.8 million and the unemployment rate has risen by 1.7 percentage points, in another sign of continuing economic decline.

The total number of unemployed in US now stands at 10.1 million, the bureau said. The government said the US economy contracted by 0.3 percent in the third quarter of 2008, the sharpest decline in seven years amid the global financial crisis that has blocked credit access and severely depressed consumer spending.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) drastically cut its global economic forecasts and predicted a recession in the United States and the world in 2009.

'Chandrayaan Brings Science, Faith Together'

New York: (IANS) Chandrayaan is on its way to the moon, regarded by many Indians as a god, but "devout Hindus - many of them, no doubt, rocket scientists - see no disharmony between ancient Vedic beliefs and contemporary scientific practice", according to a New York Times opinion article.

A week before India's moon mission was launched Oct 22, millions of Hindu women embarked on a customary daylong fast of Karva Chauth, meant to ensure a husband's welfare, broken at night on the first sighting of the moon's reflection in a bowl of oil, Tunku Varadarajan wrote in the NYT recently.

Reverence for the moon, he said, extends to the website of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which carries this verse

from the Rig Veda, a sacred Hindu text that dates back some 4,000 years: "O Moon! We should be able to know you through our intellect./ You enlighten us through the right path."

The seeming contradiction between religion and science, between reason and superstition is resolved in India by its "modernity of tradition", Varadarajan writes, borrowing the phrase from the political scientists Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph.



Varadarajan is a professor of business at New York University and the opinion editor at Forbes.com.

He notes that the Hindu astrological system is predicated on lunar movements, but clarifies: "The genius of modern Hinduism lies in its comfort with, and imperviousness to, science."

He relates how days after Apollo 11 landed on the moon, a model of the lunar module was placed in a courtyard of the most venerable temple in Varanasi, the holy city.

"The Hindu faithful were hailing man-on-the-moon; there was no suggestion that the Americans had committed sacrilege," Varadarajan writes, adding - with a caveat against exaggeration - that science sometimes struggles to co-exist with faith in the US in ways that would disconcert many Indians.

The opinion piece writer then also concedes that India's first lunar mission is no doubt a grand political gesture - space exploration in the service of national pride.

"This kind of excursion may provoke yawns at NASA, but judging from round-the-clock local coverage it has received, the mission has clearly inflamed the imagination and ambition of Indians. Yes, even moon-worshipping ones."

US To India: Accept Conditions For Sale Of Military Equipment

New York: (IANS) India would have to agree to "certain conditions" if it wants to purchase equipment from the US military, a top American official said here without specifying what they would be.

"They (India) would have to agree certain conditions that we think are very important," Admiral Timoty Keating, commander of the US Pacific Joint Command, asserted during his interaction with foreign correspondents in New York recently.

Keating, however, refrained from elaborating further on the "conditions" and said the issue comes under the jurisdiction of the US State Department, which is currently conducting negotiations with India on the matter.

Referring to the tender floated by India to purchase fighter planes, Keating said: "They want to replace their aging fighters. The United States has two fighters in the program, but the decision has not been made yet. We are cautiously hopeful."

When asked what impact the India-US civilian nuclear deal would have on the military relationship between the two countries, Keating

said: "...not directly. I do not think it is quid pro one for one. There are second or third order effect to this signal event - the nuclear deal."

He said there are some areas where the US military was still working with India.

Keating acknowledged that the military relationship between the two countries had improved during the last eight years, which he said had been the goal of the Bush administration. "We have got a very strong relationship with the Indian military."

"The spirit of cooperation, the degree of mutual engagement opportunities, the exchange of personnel, participation of military exercises is significantly better today from our perspective than it was eight years ago. I am assured that the Indian leaders feel the same way," he said.

Keating appreciated India's response to the recent terror attacks and termed them "balanced and matured".

Keating, who visited India for the first time in the mid 1980s when he was in the staff of the Pacific Command, is planning to visit India in the next five to six months.

Indian Youth Indicted For Killing Two After Drunken Driving

Jersey City (New Jersey): (IANS) A New Jersey grand jury recently indicted an Indian youth of killing his two roommates in a case of drunken driving in July this year.

If convicted, Kapil Goel, 24, face imprisonment that could last as much as 60 years.

The police said the incident occurred on July 3 when Kapil Goel was drunk and speeding his car with two of his roommates, Amarinder Cheema and Karam Bhandari.

Kapil lost control of his car and crashed into a utility pole in Edison, an Indian-American neighborhood in New Jersey, resulting in the death of both Amarinder and Karam. Kapil suffered an elbow injury.

All the three shared an apartment in Highland Park. While Kapil worked on a temporary visa at the time of the accident, Amarinder and Karam were graduate engineering students at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Following investigation, police found that the blood alcohol count of Kapil was 0.164 - more than double the permissible limit.

A Middlesex grand jury recently indicted Kapil on two counts of aggravated manslaughter and vehicular homicide.

Kapil, who worked as an assistant scientist with a biotechnology company, has pleaded not guilty.

Prof Rajan Named Manmohan Singh's Economic Advisor

New Delhi:(IANS) Raghuram Rajan, professor of economics at the University of Chicago, was recently named honorary economic advisor to India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Rajan, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will hold the rank of secretary, Government of India.

He was earlier the chairman of a high-powered committee the prime minister set up on financial reforms, that was tasked to frame a series of recommendations to make India a financial powerhouse over the next five years.

Rajan secured a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1991 after a master's in business administration from the Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi.

He was also a visiting professor of finance at the Kellogg School, Northwestern University, and Fischer Black visiting professor at MIT's Sloan School of Management.

Obama Picks Indian American Sonal Shah As Adviser

Washington: (IANS) US President-elect Barack Obama has picked Indian-American Sonal Shah, an eminent economist who heads Google's philanthropic arm, as one of the advisers to help him assemble his White House team.

Shah, 40, is part of an advisory board comprising individuals with significant private and public sector experience who will offer their expertise in their respective fields to Obama's transition team, according to US media reports.

Meanwhile, reports suggest that India-born Preeta Bansal, a Harvard-educated lawyer who was part of Obama's team of advisers during his election campaign, may be a potential candidate for the office of the Solicitor General, a post yet to be filled by a woman in US.



Sonal Shah along with other members of the advisory board will help the transition team headed by former White House chief of staff John Podesta, longtime Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett, and Pete Rouse, the President-elect's Senate chief of staff.

Others on the list include former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Carol Browner, Obama friend and former Commerce Secretary William Daley, University of California-Berkeley law school dean Christopher Edley and Obama law school friends and advisers Michael Froman and Julius Genachowski.

Shah, who was named the 'Person of the Year 2003' by India Abroad publication, currently works for Google.org on their Global Development team, where she is engaged in defining their global development strategy and promoting the firm's philanthropy work.

Before joining Google, she was vice president at Goldman, Sachs and Co. and developed and implemented its environmental strategy. She has also served as the Associate Director for Economic and National Security Policy at the Centre for American Progress, where she worked on trade, outsourcing and post-conflict reconstruction issues.

Earlier, she worked for eight years at the Department of Treasury on various economic issues and regions of the world.

She was the director of the office covering sub-Saharan Africa, worked in Bosnia and Kosovo after the war, and served as the senior adviser to the Under Secretary at the Department of Treasury during the Asian financial crisis.

Shah is the co-founder of the US-based non-profit organisation Indicorps, which offers one-year fellowships for Indian-origin Americans to work on specific development projects in India.

Her father moved from Gujarat to New York in 1970 and she along with her sister and mother joined him in 1972. She also has a brother.

Political Aspirations Of Indian-Americans Rise With Obama Win

Chandigarh: (IANS) Democrat Barack Obama's election as the first African American president of the US has ignited hope among Americans of Indian origin who dream of either pursuing political careers or having members of the diaspora represent them in the political arena.



"The election of Obama is encouragement for any American Indian. It shows us that anything is possible. I hope it motivates American Indians to run for elected offices. In fact, it has encouraged me to think of running again," American entrepreneur of Indian origin Chiranjeev Singh Kathuria told IANS on telephone from Chicago.

A physician from Brown's University (Rhode Island) and MBA from Stanford (California), Kathuria made an unsuccessful bid to be a Republican candidate against Obama from Illinois. However, he hailed Obama's victory as "path breaking for second generation immigrants".

India-Born Renu Khator Is Head Of Houston Varsity

Washington: (IANS) As she formally took the helm of a major US research institution, Renu Khator, the first India-born president of the University of Houston (UH), has outlined a bold new vision declaring student success as its first priority.

Khator, who began her tenure in January, was formally endowed with the powers and responsibilities of the office at an inspiring investiture ceremony recently at Cullen Performance Hall of the university in Houston, according to a university release.

The event, attended by an estimated 1,500 members of the university community and a host of international, federal, state and local dignitaries, marked her entrance onto the academic stage of national and global leadership as the UH System's eighth chancellor and UH's 13th president.



"I hope in my old age, before I die, I get to see an Indian American elected as president. It was very enriching, exciting and, at times, a trying experience to run for the US senate. It will be an experience I will always remember," said Kathuria.

Rajwant Singh, national president of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education (SCORE), said: "Obama's election represents dynamic America at ease with its diversity.

"We Sikhs are proud of this nation, and this election brings new hope to 500,000 Sikhs who have been here for the last 100 years. This victory will certainly inspire many Sikh Americans to aspire for the highest office in this country and will not deter them due to their appearance," he added.

While Obama's victory has given a boost to the political aspirations of many immigrants, for minority communities such as the Sikhs, who have been victims of hate crimes post

9/11 because some Americans have mistaken them for Arab Muslims, the victory is a definite sign of change.

Jasbir Singh Kang of the Punjabi American Heritage Society from Yuba City said: "This is a historic day for all Americans. A son of an immigrant has become president-elect. This can only happen in a great country like America.

"This is a great cultural and a historical shift in American politics, and we Sikhs look forward to working with President Obama," said Satinder Singh Rekhi, CEO of a company in California's Sacramento city and chairman of SCORE's board

"We pledge that, as a system of higher education, we will provide access to students from all backgrounds, living in any part of the region and the state, and having any level of educational aspirations," Khator said.

"We pledge that their educational experience will be top-tier and their training will be globally competitive."

Khator dedicated the investiture "to our students and their dreams, and (we) pledge to raise \$100 million toward the goal of student success".

Illustrating the university's resolve on this issue, as well as the generosity of its donors, alumni and friends, Khator announced that \$1 million toward this goal already has been raised through a single scholarship event - unprecedented in the history of the university.

"Indian Techie Killed Wife, Two Children"

New York: (IANS) Unemployed Indian computer programmer Lakshminivasa Rao Nerusu has been charged with the murder of his wife and two children, a week after their bodies were found in their apartment near Detroit.

The warrant issued Monday charges Nerusu, 42, with three counts of first degree murder of his wife Jayalakshmi, 37; daughter Tejasvi, 14; and son Siva Kumar, 12.



The three were found dead Oct 27 in their apartment in Novi township, 20 km from Detroit, after Nerusu's brother told the police that he had not heard from the family for several days. The cause of death was extensive head and neck trauma.

A charge of murder in the first degree includes premeditation and deliberation, Novi Police said in a statement. If convicted, Nerusu faces a life term with no possibility of parole.

While Nerusu's exact whereabouts remain unknown, Novi Police said investigators have confirmed that he left the US shortly after the murders were committed.

Investigators had said Nerusu, who hails from Andhra Pradesh in south India, lost his job recently and the family car was repossessed about a month ago. But there was no record of domestic violence against him.

The family had lived in Michigan for about two years, and had previously lived in Texas and Illinois, according to the police.

The murder charges against Nerusu come even as his family members in Hyderabad believe he was also killed.

Techie Arpana Was Strangled: Police

New York: (IANS) Arpana Jinaga, a software professional from Hyderabad who was working with a major IT company in Seattle, was strangled to death in her apartment recently, an autopsy report has revealed.



In the autopsy report, the cause of Arpana's death is listed as asphyxia due to ligature strangulation and the manner of her death as homicide. Preliminary police investigation has corroborated the report.

City police spokesperson Jim Bove said the front door of Arpana's apartment in Redmond Woodinville was forced open, shattering the door jam. "There is indication of a physical struggle by the victim," Bove told IANS.

Arpana, 24, lived alone in the apartment in Redmond, a suburb of Seattle. She worked with the EMC Corporation in Seattle. Redmond police registered a case of homicide and launched a massive manhunt to nab the assailant.

Besides working with the IT Company, Arpana was also pursuing her MS degree at Seattle. Her family members in Hyderabad said she was among the top-20 professionals of embedded systems in the world.

What Obama Presidency Means For India

BY MANISH CHAND

New Delhi: (IANS) With Democrat Barack Obama winning the White House, India is hopeful that its multi-faceted ties with the US, revolutionized by a landmark nuclear deal during the Bush tenure, will acquire new force.

"The real strategic partnership between India and the US will begin with a new government in Washington and New Delhi next year," Lalit Mansingh, former ambassador of India to the US, told IANS soon after it became clear that Obama had rewritten American history by becoming the first African American to win the White House.

Trade and investment, defence and agriculture - all those areas which were sidetracked by nuclear deal would now come to the fore, said Mansingh.

"Indians should celebrate change in the political structure of the US. Obama's presidency begins a new chapter in America's political history, a new chapter in America's engagement with the world and a great opportunity for India to combat terrorism in its region," said Chintamani Mahapatra, professor of American studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"I visualise a very bright future for India-US relations. He would be the first Democratic president in the White House after Bill Clinton who began the path-breaking turnaround in India-US ties during his visit to India in 2000. He will build upon that legacy," Mahapatra told IANS.

Less than a fortnight ago, the 47-year-old Obama had promised in an exclusive interview to



IANS to make strong strategic partnership with India a "top priority" of his presidency and described New Delhi as "a natural strategic partner" for Washington in the 21st century. Obama, who liked to keep Mahatma Gandhi's portrait in his Senate office, is also known among Indian Americans for his fondness for Indian dal.

Experts and diplomats see Obama's promise to restore America's moral standing in the world, especially in the Muslim world, that was damaged by military intervention in Iraq and his more nuanced policy on combating terrorism working to the advantage of India in the region. This will deflect some of the hostility the US attracts among India's 140 million Muslims.

"Bush was more muscular in his approach to what he called the Global War on Terror. Obama is likely to broaden the alliance against terror and use a combination of diplomacy and force that may be better suited for India's interests in the region," said Mahapatra.

Agreed Mansingh: "Obama believes in exercising smart power. Obama will be less inclined to use military force."

The 94-page Democratic Party document entitled "Renewing America's Promise" adopted at its convention in Denver eschews using the phrase "Global War on Terror" and focuses on ending the war in Iraq, stabilising Afghanistan and "combating violent extremism".

Obama has, in fact, accused Pakistan of misusing funds for the war against terror and allegedly using it to fund militancy against India - remarks which were hailed in India's diplomatic and strategic circles.

Continued on Pg20.....

Global Recession Is Also An Opportunity For India

BY PRASANTO K. ROY

The near recession in the US and the global meltdown will, of course, have its impact on India's high-tech industry, as it is one of the greatest financial crises of our globalised times. But it also presents an opportunity for Indian services vendors to improve their market share, while forcing them to diversify and de-risk across sectors and geography.

Lehman Brothers went bankrupt Sep 15. A day earlier, Merrill Lynch had announced that Bank of America was acquiring it. A week earlier, US mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae went into federal receivership.

And with each news flash, the Indian Sensex swung wildly downward, partly in sympathy, partly with foreign funds pulling out because they needed the cash. And the jitters echoed in the hallways of a host of tech services companies - who were servicing any of these firms, or their US-based suppliers.

This was bad news. The Indian tech and business process outsourcing (BPO) services industry is strongly dependent on North America, and specifically on the sector that we call "BSFI" - banking, financial services, and insurance.

Yes, the US financial services slump has come as a wake-up call for Indian exporters of technology and BPO services. But for them, this is no sudden crash. They have been through a longer crisis, though arguably, one that wasn't as severe, as the result of the weakening dollar in 2007. So, that have had some time to prepare. In 2006-07, the dollar averaged Rs.45.05 to a dollar. In 2007-08, it averaged Rs.40.4, which meant a 10 percent decline in rupee earnings for the same dollar billings.

Accordingly, many of the Indian tech/BPO services exporters looked harder beyond North America, which used to account for most of our services exports three years ago. They went to Europe, and Asia, and an adventurous few Indian companies even "came" to the India market.

India is a tech services market dominated by IBM and HP, with very few Indian services majors - mainly Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Wipro - active in this market. Others, such as Infosys and Satyam, have a negligible presence in India.

So here's the impact one sees of the dollar weakening in 2007, followed by the US financial services-led slump in 2008:

- Indian services exporters look harder beyond the US: to Europe, and Asia, including Japan
- They all work out an India market strategy, if they did not have one already
- Financial services drops from nearly 60-40 percent of our entire services exports
- Other areas like telecom and engineering services pick up rapidly
- Overall, there's increased diversification, across geography, sector and type of business

Financial services have been the mainstay of Indian software and BPO services exports. This began to change a few years ago, with telecom and engineering services picking up. That process

has now accelerated. Telecom is a huge growth market in Asia, and especially India and China.

Has the slowdown hit Indian tech exporters? Of course, it has, though not dramatically. Here's what, and why:

- A very few large institutions have melted away. They were outsourcing to India, directly as well as through other US-based services majors who had delivery centres in India. This has of course meant some impact on business

- For some time now, new deals have slowed down, and turnaround time for signing contracts has increased

- There is increasing pressure on companies to minimize their "bench" - or the currently idle employees. Recruitments thus slowed, and campus offers stayed pending

However:

- Most of the stars of the Wall Street collapse are not going away. They will continue - after either Chapter 11 filing, or acquisition (Merrill Lynch), or federal receivership

(Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae). These will generate new opportunities for low cost high quality services, especially the mergers

- A recession is all the more reason to cut costs and become more competitive on quality. Hence, more need to outsource and offshore.

- The US Congress approved a revised \$700 billion package to bail out the US financial sector. This means major opportunity for India-based services companies

India is not de-linked from the world, and the financial meltdown has certainly impacted us. While some of the impact is real and direct - like foreign institutional investors pulling out funds, which they needed back home, and thus causing havoc with the rupee - a lot of it is wild overreaction.

For instance, the day Infosys announced a great quarter and a 30 percent rise in net earnings, the Sensex saw one of its worst crashes ever. The market is not reacting to fundamentals, but is overreacting in panic.

Yet, Indian services vendors have an opportunity waiting. There are factors in their favour. The dollar has swung very hard in the other direction now. India's brand image and reputation of services expertise in a range of areas, beginning with financial services but now extending to telecom, engineering services and medicine and more is on the rise.

An economic downturn is like a mild ice age, with the survival of the fittest. Take the airlines industry shakeout today: the fittest will survive. The outlook for IT and BPO services is a lot brighter than it is for the airlines, and brighter than it was post the dot.com bust.

Even so, it will mean belt tightening, and more focus on efficiency. Just as the fuel crisis and cost is forcing us toward more efficient transport. The global financial meltdown will mean some tough times for its suppliers, but the fittest will survive - and emerge stronger. And many will find opportunity in the crisis.



Obama & India- Cheers & Caution

New Delhi: (IANS) What cheers India and what makes it cautious about Obama presidency:

What Cheers India:

Natural Ally: Obama says building strategic partnership with India top priority and sees India as a natural strategic ally of the US in the 21st century.

Terrorism and Pakistan: More focused on ending terrorism and Al Qaeda by concentrating on finishing Al Qaeda sanctuaries in Pakistan and bringing stability in Afghanistan. Plans to increase aid to Afghanistan.

Iraq and Muslim world: Promises withdrawal of troops in Iraq within 18 months - a fountainhead of hostility against the US in the Muslim world. Makes it easier for India to deal with a US with better standing in the Middle East.

Economy: Favours greater regulation of financial institutions.

Backs immigration reform and H1B visa programme.

What makes India cautious:

CTBT: Obama has strong views on non-proliferation. May try to force India to accept CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty) and provoke a fresh debate in India on this sensitive issue. Shouldn't be a problem after the US, China come on board.

Kashmir: May try to play peace-keeper in Kashmir, a tendency that is likely to be resented and opposed by India which sees Kashmir as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and one that does not need third-party intervention.

Outsourcing: India fears global financial meltdown may force Obama to turn protectionist. Obama has promised tax incentives for US companies that create new jobs.

Indian Spacecraft Enters Lunar Orbit, Makes History

Bangalore: (IANS) India Saturday made history by firing its first unmanned spacecraft Chandrayaan-1 into the lunar orbit, breaking away from the earth's gravitational field for a rendezvous with the moon.

"The complex lunar orbit insertion maneuver was conducted perfectly. We have created space history by doing it for the first time. It shows our planning was precise and all calculations were on dot," a beaming Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman G. Madhavan Nair told reporters here after the successful operation.

With this successful maneuver, India becomes the fifth country to send a spacecraft to the moon after the US, former Soviet Union, Japan and China. The European Space Agency (ESA), a consortium of 17 nations, also sent a spacecraft to the moon.

Chandrayaan was put into an elliptical lunar orbit when its liquid engine onboard was fired at 4.51 p.m. IST for about 817 seconds (13.6 minutes) from the space agency's telemetry, tracking and command network (Istrac) on the outskirts of Bangalore.

"The liquid engine was fired when the spacecraft was cruising at about 500 km from the moon to reduce its velocity and enable lunar gravity to capture it into an orbit around the moon," ISRO said in a statement later.

The Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Byalalu, about 40 km from this tech hub of India, supported the crucial task of transmitting commands and monitoring the vital event with two dish antennas of 18 meter and 32 meter in diameter.

"All operations to insert the spacecraft into the lunar orbit have been completed. The ground stations have also proved that all systems are working normal. It will take five days to stabilize the operations and the moon impact probe (MIP) onboard Chandrayaan will be released to hit the lunar surface Nov 15, when the Indian tri-color will also be lowered," Nair said.

The spacecraft is spinning in an elliptical orbit, passing over the polar regions of the moon. The nearest orbit (periselene) is 504 km from the moon's surface, while the farthest (aposeleene) is at 7,502 km. It takes 11 hours to go around the moon once in this orbit.

"The performance of all the systems onboard is normal. Over the next two-three days, the height of the spacecraft's orbit will be reduced in steps to achieve a final polar orbit of about 100 km height from the moon's surface," the statement noted.

The terrain mapping camera (TMC) onboard will continue to take pictures of the moon from the spacecraft. The remaining nine instruments onboard will be switched on by the month-end in tune with the normal phase of the moon.

The TMC was operated twice to take pictures first of the earth and then moon.

In the past 18 days, the liquid engine motor onboard was fired five times at opportune moments to increase the apogee height, first to 37,900 km, then to 74,715 km, 164,600 km, 267,000 km and finally 380,000 km.

Chandrayaan carries 11 scientific instruments, including six foreign payloads — two from the US, three from the European Space Agency (ESA) and one from Bulgaria. The remaining five are indigenously designed and developed by various centres of the state-run ISRO.

The spacecraft was blasted off Oct 22 onboard the 316-tonne polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV-C11) from

the Satish Dhawan space center at Sriharikota spaceport, about 80 km north of the Tamil Nadu capital Chennai.

Indian Govt Will Spend Rs.250 Bn To Pump-Prime Economy

New Delhi: (IANS) The government will pump-prime the economy by investing Rs.250 billion (Rs.25,000 crore) in areas like infrastructure but without worsening the country's fiscal deficit situation, Commerce Minister Kamal Nath has said.



"We will definitely have to pump in close to Rs.10,000 crore (Rs.10 billion) on an annual basis in definitive projects. In the power sector, Rs.1,000 crore; in roads, Rs.1,000 crore," the minister

said.

"Totally, I think, we would need to pump in Rs.25,000 crore in the next six months to keep this oiled, to keep the machine moving," Kamal Nath told CNN-IBN's "Devil's Advocate" program.

The minister also said that the government would continue to remain cautious in printing currency notes, so as not to add to the fiscal deficit while making the huge investment. Funds will be found by reallocating revenues.

"So it's going to happen within the confines of good financial management."

Speaking about the current turmoil in the global financial system, Kamal Nath said while companies will not have to live with lower profits, the situation was bound to change in the near future.

"We must recognise: In the last four years, companies have made 50-60 percent profits. In the West and in the other parts of the world they are struggling with 5-10 percent profits," he said.

"So if these profits are coming (down) to 30 percent, Indian industry must live with these 30 percent profits. You cannot have those huge profits forever," he said.

"I don't believe that this gloom, which has settled in the West, is permanent. It is transitory. Let's face it, let's address it, and move on."

When interviewer Karan Thapar asked for the minister's comment on tiny, small and medium industries - the backbone of Indian industry - being under enormous pressure, the minister promised to help them tide over the crisis.

"The small and medium sectors have been helped by the appreciation of the dollar and depreciation of the rupee. So, that is the one benefit they have got. We are looking at other benefits where we can give them some sops," he said.

The minister also maintained that India's services sector will continue to play a major role in expanding the gross domestic product (GDP) despite the country facing a major gloom.

"Services will have its role in our growth," Kamal Nath said, adding that he believed they could still grow at double-digit levels. "They will achieve it. They are achieving it. There has been no slowdown," he said.

"We are on track to achieve 7.5 (percent growth) and excess of 7.5 (percent) this year," Kamal Nath added.

SC To Hear Plea Seeking Probe Against Thackeray

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) The Supreme Court will hear a petition seeking a judicial probe into the killing of two youngsters from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in Maharashtra amid a "hate campaign" launched by



Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Sanjeev Kumar Singh, an advocate, filed the public interest petition and sought the court's direction for providing security to people from north India staying in Maharashtra.

He said the central and state governments had failed to take proper action against those instrumental in propagating the "hate campaign" against people from outside the state.

The petitioner sought a judicial inquiry into the killings of Rahul Raj from Patna and Dharam Dev Rai of Gorakhpur alleging there was a total failure of the constitutional machinery in Maharashtra. Raj, 25, was killed in a shootout with police in Mumbai Oct 27. A day later Rai, 25, was beaten to death in a suburban train near Mumbai.

Freebies Like Mercedes, BMW Failing To Push House Sales

New Delhi: (IANS) Even freebies like Mercedes, BMW and gold medallions are failing to lure home buyers this season, resulting in a 50 percent dip in purchases in both premium



million/Rs.40 lakhs for mid segment housing which was quite unrealistic.

"Sales are just not picking up. Compared to last year, the figure has gone down by 50 percent, even when they are selling at 20-30 percent below the earlier market prices," said Punit Saxena of the real estate consultants Axiom Estates.

"This is alarming. If the situation doesn't improve, there could be distress sales in six months."

According to Anil Chawla, private equity head with .E. Shaw and Company, India's realty industry was heading for a slowdown much before the current economic slump. "Increasing demand had pushed up prices with speculators and investors jumping in to inflate the market. Eventually the situation became grim as speculators withdrew and buyers refused to pay unrealistically high prices," Chawla said.

Developers, however, blamed the high home-loan rates for the situation.

"Certainly with interest rates at an all-time high, the middle-segment people cannot afford to buy new homes. I feel that the prices must be reasonable enough. Builders cannot just quote anything," Kumar said.

"Due to a liquidity crunch, the entire real estate industry looks to be in depression."

For the premium segment, the main worry is over loss of interest among non-resident Indians (NRIs), who had fuelled the boom in the past few years. And incentives like Mercedes cars and gold coins have not helped.

and mid segments, with experts predicting distress sales in six months.

The high cost of home loans, land acquisitions at high prices, a dip in demand from non-resident Indians and the general liquidity crunch are also compounding the woes of realty majors, the experts added.

"It is not that demand has declined," said Santhosh Kumar, deputy chief executive officer of Jones Lang LaSalle Meghraj, a global real estate consultant and brokerage firm. "There is a lot of demand in the middle segment but the prices quoted by developers are very high," Kumar told IANS.

In places like Lucknow and Meerut, he said, realty developers were quoting as much as Rs.4



BY RANI SHARMA

Elegant Fall Fashions

The fashion trend this fall leans towards warm, western elegance. Indian outfits with an American feel are great for Thanksgiving Day lunches and dinners. Leave behind the bling of the Indian festive season to make way for the classy look.

Warm, reversible quilted jackets in raw silk, short silk (with dhoop chaoon effect) or brocade will not only create a fashion statement, but will also keep you warm through a cool November evening. The jacket typically has a Chinese or band neck. Wear it over a tank top or tunic in solid colored silk. Pair with tight fitting, straight pants in raw silk with lining or leggings in bold prints. Stylish prints will break the muted elegance of the jacket.

A banarasi, ikat or batik scarf around your neck will stand out against the jacket. Scarves are narrower and



Create a fashion statement in warm, reversible quilted jackets in raw silk, short silk or brocade. Pair with brocade, banarasi or silk pinstriped scarves.

Right: This custom created salwar is created out of old bits of traditional waste materials like banarasi, jamdani, embroidered silk etc. The pieces are seamed together with elegant gold piping. The salwar is then embellished with mirror work, stone work and patra work. Pair with plain kurta and a transparent scarf.

shorter than the conventional winter shawl. They typically measure two yards in length and are 20-inches wide.

Complete the ensemble with a soft silk self-material purse in matching color and open-toes shoes. Accessorize with a pair of elegant studs and a kada.

Formal jackets are typically knee length and measure 40-inches in length. Wedding jackets are longer and measure 48-inches long.

Another fashion trend this season is the flowing cape tunic in crushed pin tucks, faded georgette. The yolk has a brocade border, and the neckline has beautiful stone work embroidery. Pair with tights.

There's good news for ladies with a wardrobe full of silk saris of yesteryears. Time-honored saris like the eternal kanjeevaram and banarasi are back in vogue. Pair with traditional gold jewelry for the classic look.

Men's fashion trend is to pair regular pants with a silk quilted jacket in jamdani or raw silk material, as the occasion demands. The groom can create his memories of a lifetime in a raw silk suit.

This fall, don't fall back on fashion. Stay ahead!

Rani Sharma is the owner of Raneez Boutique. Email: rani@nrpulse.com.



Birthstones With A Sunny Disposition

With fallen leaves swirling on chill winds, November marks our last fond farewell to warmer days.



warm and sunny hues.

Citrine color ranges from yellow to orange brown. Natural Citrine is pale yellow in color. Citrine is found in the Ural Mountains of Russia, France, Brazil and Madagascar. Citrine is a type of quartz. Citrine is a powerful cleanser. Citrine helps to heal spiritually as well as the physical self. Citrine helps to have a positive attitude and relieves you off the stress and gives you energy to perform with an increase in self esteem. Citrine is the lucky 'Merchants stone' and the stone of success.

Topaz is derived from the Greek word Topazios. Topaz will not scratch because it is extremely hard (rating an 8 on the Mohs scale), but it also has what is known as "perfect cleavage." This means that it can chip easily,

As trees turn color and people get cozy with spiced cider, the gemstones for this month are bound to bring seasonal cheer. Citrine and yellow topaz are November's birthstones, heralding the harvest with their

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which, combined with its expense, may be why many people with November birthdays prefer citrine. Yellow topaz is the symbol of friendship. It is the state gemstone of Utah. Blue topaz is the gemstone of the state of Texas. The gemstone is found in Ural Mountain, Sri-lanka, Afghanistan,



Brazil, Germany, Italy and few more countries. Topaz color ranges from transparent to blue, green, yellow and reddish yellow. Topaz is associated with Jupiter in Romans.

I do not have a project in this

issue but will continue in the next month.

Happy Holidays!

If you have any questions/comments/suggestions you are always welcome to contact: Meena Iyer, Roma Creations
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I've Worked Very Hard On My Body: Priyanka

New Delhi: (IANS) After flaunting her curves and earning rave reviews for her performance in "Fashion", Priyanka Chopra is all set to show off her svelte figure in swimsuits and beachwear in forthcoming film "Dostana".

She says she had to work really hard to get the right shape for the romantic comedy.

"For 'Fashion', I had to put on six kilos and later had to shed chip by chip as the character progressed in the film. My body structure in 'Dostana' is more toned than in 'Fashion' as it is a completely beach film. I've worked very hard on my body," Priyanka told IANS in an interview.

After a hectic schedule with six films in a row this year, Priyanka said shooting for "Dostana" with Abhishek Bachchan and John Abraham was like a vacation and a rejuvenating experience for her.

Entirely shot in Miami, Florida, "Dostana" comes as a breather for the actress whose flagging career was given a new lease of life with "Fashion" after a series of duds - "Love Story 2050", "God Tussi Great Ho", "Chamku" and "Drona".

"'Dostana' was like a vacation. It was so much fun. We were in Miami for two months and I was so fresh and rested when I came back. It was like a really relaxed outdoor and (I had a) great time because everybody got along well with each other," Priyanka said.

Produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and directed by Tarun Mansukhani, the romantic comedy will release Nov 14.

Priyanka plays a fashion journalist who shares her apartment with Abhishek and John. The two dupe her to rent her apartment on the pretext of being a gay couple.

"John, Abhishek and I are best friends in the film who do everything together. It's a romantic comedy and a fun film about what happens in their lives," the actress said.

Asked if she had any apprehensions working with a debutant director, specially after a string of flops this year, Priyanka said: "Tarun is a fabulous friend of mine and an incredible director. When I first met him, I was a little scared.

"I am a kind of person who asks a lot of questions. I test directors. I like asking and Tarun knew the answer to every question I asked. He blew my mind with his confidence and the commitment he had towards the film. By the end of the film, he's become a really close friend of mine and I admire him as a filmmaker."

The former Miss World also says: "I definitely want to try singing. I might start with, maybe, a song in one of my films but I'm not sure when. But I definitely want to do it."

The actress said she admired the blogging rage among celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan,

Aamir Khan and Ram Gopal Varma, but added that she couldn't take to it due to lack of time.

"It's such a great way to get closer to your fans. But I don't know how they find time to blog because I hardly sleep for more than four hours. I really want to do it at some point because



Karan (Johar) was also telling me it's great... may be in a while when my schedule eases a little bit.

"I've had six releases this year, so it's been insane for me."

Priyanka is currently shooting for Vishal Bhardwaj's "Kaminay" and Ashutosh Gowariker's "What's Your Raashee", which she calls a "very complicated and difficult romantic comedy".

She also has sequels to Farhan Akhtar's "Don - The Chase Begins Again" and Goldie Behl's "Drona", apart from an item number opposite Shah Rukh Khan in Priyadarshan's "Billo Barber"

I Wanted Indians To See James Bond Before Americans: Daniel Craig

New Delhi: (IANS) "Quantum of Solace" is opening in India a week before its US release.

Lead actor Daniel Craig says "Bond films have been a huge hit in India and that's why we wanted to give Indian audiences the thrill of seeing the spy movie before the Americans do".

"India has got really enthusiastic movie lovers," Craig told IANS.

"Bond films have always been a hit here (India) and the character of James Bond is hugely popular in India, so keeping his Indian mass fan following in mind, the producers decided to release



Getting Slapped Was Humiliating: Preity Zinta

New Delhi: (IANS) She's already bagged an award for her power-packed performance as a battered wife in "Heaven On Earth", but Bollywood star Preity Zinta says she was humiliated when co-star Vansh Bhardwaj, who plays her abusive husband, slapped her while shooting a scene.

"When we were shooting the film, there was a scene where my co-star had to slap me and, of course, it was a mistake as he took one step forward and actually went smack across my face. It was the most humiliating experience of my life because everyone saw me getting slapped," Preity told IANS in an interview.

Preity got the Silver Hugo Award for best actress in the Feature Film Competition section at the 44th Chicago International Film Festival Oct 29.

The mishap on the sets of director Deepa Mehta's film brought Preity closer to reality and made her understand the character better.

"It changed my whole perception towards my role and I realised that it's so terrible to strip a woman of her spirit. It's better to die than to let your spirit die. This film took me to another zone; it just shattered me because I am someone who would immediately stand up for myself," she said.

Known for her chirpy, bubbly and garrulous image in Bollywood, Preity would be seen at the receiving end in Mehta's film, which she says "completely broke" her heart.

She explained: "It was the most difficult film of my career. It's also a film that completely broke my heart. I remember asking a woman, who was a victim of domestic violence and had left her

husband, what the turning point in her relationship was and she said, 'I told my husband if you want to beat me, beat me in a room. But don't beat me in front of the family.'



"I could never understand that. Beating someone is bad and it doesn't matter if it's alone or in front of others. It's terrible. I really didn't know what it was to be in a situation like this till I did the film."

Preity has of late been accepting non-commercial projects, including the recently released "The Last Lear" and Jahnu Barua's "Har Pal".

Why the sudden interest in off-beat films? "I did 'Heaven on Earth' because I thought if a commercial actor like me ventured into something like this, it would provide a broader platform. It was something that really inspired me and I was very excited about. I always played stronger roles so this was a change for me.

"I'm happy that the film will get more eyeballs thanks to the recognition it has got. To me, I'll be ultimately happy if every family will see the film, especially the men," said Preity.

The actress said that while the movie did not have "the trappings of music and song and dance", it was still very close to her heart "because it tackles immigration; it tackles domestic violence - topics that we like to brush under the carpet".

The year so far has brought her much critical acclaim as her performances in both "The Last Lear" and "Heroes" were widely appreciated.

The actress added that she would return to her trademark girl-next-door image only if she was offered a role with "substance".

"I will do masala movies for sure, but I would like to have substance in them. I can't do just the glam chick any longer. I've been there, done that. It just doesn't inspire me any more. I have to leave that for the other girls to do. That's the way one grows," she said.

Preity's "Heaven on Earth" will have its worldwide commercial release in November end and she will also be seen in "Har Pal" and "Main Aur Mrs. Khanna".

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Slowdown Will Last 15 Months: Nasscom Chief



Ahmedabad: (IANS) The economic slowdown resulting from the global financial crisis is expected to last not more than 15 months. However, additional jobs will get created in India during the period, a senior official said.

"This slowdown will last for another 12 to 15 months and yet we will add jobs," chairman of India's apex IT body Nasscom Ganesh Natarajan said.

He said only 200,000 jobs were created this year against the expected 270,000 jobs due to the slowdown.

"What this slowdown in effect means for India is that the domestic companies would be a little more watchful when they recruit. The next six months would be difficult for IT companies," he said.

Ganesh Natarajan

"IT industry growth would be 22 percent as compared to last year's 29 percent. This seven percent drop is not because there is no demand. It only means that the demand is not being translated into business. India's economic growth could come down to seven percent yet opportunities will still be there," said Natarajan, who is also the Global CEO of Zensar.

He said serious work is being done through IT solutions and the global companies cannot afford to lose Indian services. "As far as IT or BPOs are concerned there is nothing to worry."

On the global financial crisis which has hit the US extensively, Natarajan said: "The US companies went a bit extreme in outsourcing. However, the US will still maintain its global leadership."

To a question, he said the rupee will stabilise at 42 to 43 a dollar in a year or two though it could reach 56 before that.

Bill Gates Has Faith In Indian Pharma Cos



New Delhi: (IANS) The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) might doubt some Indian pharmaceutical majors' quality parameters but Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates has full faith in them and would continue to do business with them.

"The science of Indian pharmaceuticals is quite strong. We will continue our involvement with them. The cheap drugs (sourced from India) are benefiting many countries," Gates told reporters here.

"We have association with many companies like the Ranbaxy and Dr. Reddy's Lab," he said adding that beyond drug procurement, he is engaged with them for vaccine development. "In the near future, you will listen from me more about vaccine developments for diseases like malaria, pneumonia, AIDS, and child and maternal mortality. "Here, we have a very good collaboration with India. We need to reduce the burden," Gates told IANS.

He noted that an Indian researcher was recently funded to pursue an innovative genetic approach to fighting HIV/AIDS as part of the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative, a \$100 million Gates Foundation program to support cutting-edge health research.

Earlier, the US FDA has doubted the processes followed at some of Ranbaxy's manufacturing facilities. Ranbaxy had announced that it had provided all necessary data to US FDA on all the ongoing inquiries against its products and process followed.

Gates, the co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is currently in India to discuss several healthcare issues with a focus on polio eradication.

American Express To Cut India Jobs



New Delhi: (IANS) US credit card and banking giant American Express Monday confirmed that the company would cut jobs in India but said it cannot give a specific number.

"Approximately 7,000 jobs are being eliminated company-wide which translates into about 10 percent of the company's worldwide workforce," the company said in a press statement in response to queries from IANS.

"While we cannot give you a specific number for India market, we can tell you that we are not the main focus of the restructuring.

The reductions will occur throughout the company and across business units, markets and staff groups, primarily focusing on management and other positions that do not interact directly with customers," the statement said.

"While we cannot get into specifics around business units and departments, we can tell you that the reductions will occur across business units, markets and staff groups focusing on management and other positions that do not interact directly with customers," the statement said.

Earlier, on Oct 30 the company had announced in New York that it would take company-wide reengineering initiatives to produce cost benefits of approximately \$1.8 billion in 2009.

The reengineering plan includes: reducing staffing levels and compensation expenses, cutting operating costs and scaling back investment spending.

The company has taken on its books a restructuring charge of approximately \$370 to \$440 million pre-tax (approximately \$240 to \$290 million after-tax) in the fourth quarter, the company statement said.

Microsoft Says Malware Threats Rise 43 Percent



San Francisco: (DPA) Worldwide threats from malicious software that cripple computers with spy programs, viruses and worms have increased 43 percent over the past year, Microsoft said recently in its Security Intelligence Report.

The software giant said that the rise occurred despite a significant improvement in the security of its operating systems, as hackers targeted individual programs and naive users.

Microsoft said that 90 percent of new vulnerabilities over the past year targeted programs, while only 10 percent honed in on operating systems.

The report indicated that malware infection rates are generally higher in developing countries than in developed ones. Infection rates range from 1.8 for every 1,000 computers in Japan to above 76.4 for every 1,000 in Afghanistan.

The US had an infection rate of 11.2 infected computers for every 1,000 scanned - an increase of 25.5 percent in the last six months.

Microsoft recommended a number of protective steps that computer users should take: Checking for security updates from Microsoft and third-party software providers, installing up-to-date firewalls and antivirus and anti-spyware programs, and exercising extreme caution in opening links and attachments embedded in emails, even if the email is from a trusted source.

These links can direct users to phony websites in a technique called phishing, which then combs users' computers for sensitive information.

China has the highest rate for these so-called browser-based exploits, which comprised 46.6 percent of all security incidents there, compared to 23.3 percent in the US, Microsoft said.

Microsoft Unveils Windows 7, A Fix For Vista



Los Angeles: (DPA) Microsoft released key details recently of the next generation of software that it hopes will run the world's computers. The software giant, whose dominance is under threat, said Windows 7 will replace the disappointing Windows Vista in January 2010.

Microsoft said the new operating system was designed to function like a tighter version of Vista, which launched in 2006 but was widely derided as a "system hog" that slowed down computers with features that most users never accessed.

Speaking to participants at a Microsoft developers' conference in Los Angeles, Steven Sinofsky, senior vice president of Windows, said Microsoft was learning its lessons from Vista, by making sure that Windows 7 would be fully compatible with all relevant devices and applications on launch.

Among the innovations unveiled by Microsoft was a touch-screen capability that will allow users to select folders and control programs without using a mouse.

Windows 7 will also feature faster boot-up times, an updated task bar that includes previews of open windows, a new desktop look and a set of features optimized for laptops. The new operating system also makes it easier to coordinate and access files over networks and to automatically configure settings for different networks.

The new software will ditch some prominent features included in Vista including Calendar, Windows Mail, Movie Maker, Contacts and Photo Gallery, which will now be available for free download from the Microsoft website. Microsoft has been hit by the growing success of Apple's Mac computers and by the long-term switch of many computing functions to mobile phones and the internet. Google is threatening Microsoft's cash cow, the Office Suite of programs, with online word processors, spreadsheets and presentation programs.

Researchers Working On Fuels From Water, Sunshine And 'Ice That Burns'



Washington: (IANS) Researchers are outlining key advances in developing new fuels to help supply a future energy-hungry world. The advances include green gasoline, designer hydrocarbons and "ice that burns".

Automobile pioneer Henry Ford foresaw that cars of the future would run on ethanol. Researchers are now looking at grass to produce ethanol that would be more sustainable than corn-based ethanol.

"The ice that burns" or gas hydrates also offer a potential new bonanza of natural gas, with rich deposits in the US and elsewhere, according to an American Chemical Society (ACS) release.

Another segment explores artificial photosynthesis and describes researchers' efforts to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen in order to produce clean-burning hydrogen fuel.

The ACS podcast also highlights how scientists are continuing to make strides toward less expensive but more efficient solar cells and safer nuclear power.

Zzz: Are You Snoring?

BY PRASADS. GARIMELLA, M.D.
FELLOW, AMERICAN BOARD OF SLEEP
MEDICINE
GWINNETT PULMONARY GROUP

Snoring is common, annoying and unhealthy. There is a myth that snoring means deep sleep. That is far from the truth.

Why do we snore? When sleep onset occurs, most of the muscles in the body relax. If a person's airway is narrow, the relaxation of the muscles in sleep cause more narrowing of the airway. The air flowing through these narrowing airway, vibrates the floppy structures like soft



palate etc, thus producing the snoring sound.

Apnea and Hypopnea

Visualise the airway as the collapsible tube. With deepening sleep and more relaxation, the narrowing of the airway worsen and airflow drops below a critical point, oxygen content in the blood drops steadily. The longer the duration of obstruction; more is the drop in the oxygen content. This is called hypopnea. When there is

Talk to your doctor if you snore and have one of these:

- Daytime sleepiness
- Not feeling fresh after full night sleep
- Waking up with gasping for air
- Hypertension
- Problems with concentration, memory or mood.
- Obesity

complete stopping of air flow for more than ten seconds, it is called Apnea.

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)

Depending on the degree of obstruction of the upper airway; snoring, hypopneas and apneas occur. This condition is termed as Obstructive Sleep Apnea. As the hypopneas and apneas occur, oxygen content in the blood drops. This leads to an arousal of the brain from sleep. With each arousal, there is increase in the tone of the muscle which decrease the obstruction and thereby snoring.

Consequences of OSA

There are many consequences of OSA on the health of the individual. The heart and the brain get the brunt of this problem. The cyclical drop in the oxygen in turn leads to the release of

stress hormones. These hormones in turn cause the rise of heart rate and blood pressure. This increased workload on the heart occurs when there is lowered oxygen supply. Thus, chronic untreated obstructive sleep apnea puts the person at risk for hypertension, congestive heart failure and arrhythmias. It is a cumulative effect over a period of years.

The other major consequence of sleep-disordered breathing is on the brain. If you observe a child after full night sleep, you notice that there are energetic, fresh and rejuvenated. This is because they get a high amount of deeper stages of sleep called delta sleep. As we age, the amount of delta sleep wanes and if there OSA, it is suppressed further. The frequent arousals and

Take home messages

- Snoring does not mean deep sleep.
- Snoring, hypopnea and apnea are on the spectrum called Obstructive Sleep Apnea
- Untreated OSA has slow but sure long time consequences on the heart, brain and overall health and well being.
- OSA is easily diagnosed and treated.

suppressed delta sleep are the main reasons for the decreased daytime functioning commonly seen with OSA. The decreased daytime functioning may manifest as excessive daytime sleepiness, non restorative sleep, lack of concentration, mood changes and increased risk of accidents etc..

How is the diagnosis of OSA made?

Now that we learnt that sleep disordered breathing is unhealthy, what can we do about it? Every one who has snoring along with one of the other symptoms like excessive sleepiness, non refreshing sleep, memory, mood or concentration problems need evaluation by a physician. The physician will assess the probability of OSA based on the symptoms, examination and other risk factors. If the clinical suspicion is high, then a sleep study is ordered which records the brain, heart activity along with airflow and oxygenation during sleep.

Treatment of OSA

Depending on the degree of the sleep disordered breathing, the treatment options vary.

The three major treatment options include CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure); surgery or dental appliances. The CPAP is the most effective and the most commonly used treatment.

How does CPAP work?

CPAP is a machine that delivers air with pressure. The tubing from the machine transmits the pressure to the mask which is secured on to the face over the nose or mouth. The pressure prevents the upper airway to narrow or collapse and keeps the oxygen content in the blood steady. Once placed on the CPAP machine, the person has to use it with all sleep times, day or night. After few weeks of regular CPAP use, daytime functioning of most patients improve. This is most profoundly seen in severe cases.

Grapes May Be Answer To Lower Blood Pressure: Study



Washington: (IANS) Grapes could be a palatable, healthy way of fighting blood pressure caused by a salty diet, besides keeping the heart in fine fettle, an experiment on laboratory mice has suggested.

A new University of Michigan (U-M) Cardiovascular Center study has thrown up tantalizing clues to the potential of grapes in reducing cardiovascular risk, inherent in phytochemicals, antioxidants in grapes. The study was performed on laboratory mice, to study the effect of regular table grapes (a blend of green, red, and black grapes) that were mixed in mice diet in a powdered form, as part of either a high or low-salt diet. They performed many comparisons between the mice consuming the test diet and the control mice receiving no grape powder - including some that received a mild dose of a common blood-pressure (BP) drug.

All the rats were from a research breed that develops high blood pressure when fed a salty diet.

In all, after 18 weeks, the rats that received the grape-enriched diet powder had lower BP, better heart function, reduced inflammation throughout their bodies, and fewer signs of heart muscle damage than the rats that ate the same salty diet but didn't receive grapes.

The rats that received BP medicine, hydralazine, along with a salty diet also had lower BP, but their hearts were not protected from damage as they were in the grape-fed group, according to an UM press release.

Mitchell Seymour, who led the research as part of his doctoral work in nutrition science at Michigan State University said: "These findings support our theory that something within the grapes themselves has a direct impact on cardiovascular risk, beyond the simple blood pressure-lowering impact that we already know can come from a diet rich in fruits and vegetables."

Epilepsy Drug Spells Hope For Alzheimer's



Toronto: (IANS) Canadian researchers have found that a drug used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorders can also be effectively used in treating Alzheimer's disease.

In their study on animal models, researchers at Vancouver-based University of British Columbia have found that Valproic Acid (VPA), used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorders, can also block the formation of plaques that cause Alzheimer's disease (AD).

If the drug is used in early stages of Alzheimer's disease, it can help reverse memory loss, the study says. It says Valproic Acid inhibits the activity of an enzyme that produces a neurotoxic protein called beta Amyloid. In turn, this stops the formation of plaques since beta Amyloid proteins are the main component of plaques that cause Alzheimer's disease.

"We found that if we used VPA in the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, in model mice, it reduced plaque formation and further prevented brain cell death and axon damage," a university statement quoted Weihong Song, study leader and Canada Research Chair in Alzheimer's disease at the university, as saying. "The drug also improved performance in memory tests," he said, adding that the results will help them design human clinical trials.

Credit Crunch Threatens Discovery Of Drugs



Washington: (IANS) The current global financial crunch could nix the discovery and production of many new life-saving medicines, experts have warned.

Investment into research for new drugs - which runs into billions of dollars - is now seriously under threat as former investors in pharmaceuticals are shying away as a result of the meltdown.

David Wield, director of the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) Edinburgh-based Innogen Centre, delivered a stark warning prior to the gathering of over 200 experts at conference in London, an ESRC press release said. Wield said: "Investing in biotech companies is now seen as risk-taking, and will not be for the

timid. What will happen to investment in biotech research if finance cannot even be found for relatively everyday expenses which are increasingly becoming more of a struggle?

"Drug discovery depends on long-term finance with high risk of failure - and lots of it. Financing of biotechnology companies hit \$50 billion in 2007. And overall, these biotechs only made profits for the very first time last year, amounting to \$1 billion on revenues of \$59 billion."

Kids Safer With Grandparents Around

Washington: (IANS) Kids are safe, secure and protected from injuries when grandparents are around, a boon for working parents, according to a new study. Compared to organized daycare or care by the mother or other relatives, having a grandmother watch a child was associated with a decreased risk of injury for the child. According to researchers, the odds of injury were significantly greater among children whose parents never married, compared with children whose mothers stayed married.

Similarly, odds of injury were greater for children living in homes in which the father did not co-reside. These associations were independent of family income, according to a Bloomberg press release.

"Recent growth in the number of grandparents providing childcare has some observers concerned they don't adhere to modern safety practices," said co-author David Bishai, professor at Bloomberg School's Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health.

A Wednesday: Thought Provoking Drama

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

A Wednesday is a movie that is truly thought provoking. The debutant director Neeraj Pandey brings together two of the most talented actors of our times, Anupam Kher and Naseruddin Shah at two ends of the moral spectrum in the most powerful premise of terrorism and its unlikely ramification on the common man. A movie set with the background of this intensity also manages to sprinkle subtle humor along the way. The director skillfully steers the younger actors Jimmy Sheirgill and Aamir Bashir towards the action sequences and lets the senior actors take over the thrilling, chilling drama. The movie ends with a rather unforeseen turn which actually is the part of the movie that fuels food for discussion but is hard to do without giving away the plot.

The movie begins with Prakash Rathod (Anupam Kher), the Commissioner of Police on the verge of retirement reflecting on the most challenging case of his career. And his mind quickly and clearly takes him to the case that has no track record and the Wednesday it all happened. The Wednesday when the Commissioner was dealing with a reel hero who is petrified at the fact that someone has harassed him over the phone. Your funny bone is tickled at the way the hero who was thrashing the bad guys one minute turns into a zero the minute he hears someone threatening him over the phone, which is actually a prank played on the him. Prakash Rathod knows it is a prank and assures the hero he will be safe and just as you finish smiling, the pace of the movie picks up and simply takes off. Prakash Rathod receives a phone call from an anonymous caller (Naseruddin Shah) warning him of bombs planted in various Mumbai locations. To assure the Commissioner that this is no crank call, he leads him to the bomb he planted earlier at the police station right across the Commissioner's head quarters on the pretext of lodging a complaint. We are also introduced



simultaneously to the aggressive ATS Officer Arif Khan (Jimmy Sheirgill), a composed Police Inspector Jai Pratap Singh (Aamir Bashir), and a news hungry TV journalist Naina Roy (Deepal Shaw). The anonymous caller demands the release of four terrorists and wants them all delivered to a particular location and the chase begins. Prakash Rathod gets a young hacker to trace the anonymous caller. Naina Roy also receives a call from the anonymous caller leading her to the Police HQ and also the location where the terrorists are demanded to be delivered. He wants to see his demands put into action through her television channel.

The series of events that follow after the terrorists are handed over to the anonymous caller sets the movie apart from the regular stories told about terrorism in Bollywood. While it is hard to

discuss the story without giving away the climax, it needs to be said that the reasoning behind the ending of the movie leaves room for conflicting ideologies. The name of the anonymous caller is never revealed in the movie so that a religion is not affiliated to actions and events that follow. It however does makes you wonder if the end is justified morally, ethically and ideologically even if it was done for all the right reasons and by a stupid common man, as the anonymous caller identifies him-

self. The two protagonists meet only once throughout the movie but compliment each other fabulously all the way.

The crisp fast paced thriller with an embedded social genre flaunts luminosity in various aspects of its story telling process. Fuwad Khan's camera brilliantly captures the rapid change of events and the streets of Mumbai at its rawest. Editing of the movie deserves a special mention as it matches the pace of the movie and effectively brings together the happenings of a day which change drastically and the description of various

characters as a coherent cohesive whole. Sanjoy Chowdhary's background music is harmonious with the story. Neeraj Pandey as a director has arrived and makes his mark. He is definitely here to stay.

The story and direction by Neeraj Pandey provide a gleaming platform for two the industries' finest to showcase their best performance and they deliver with passion, restraint and simplicity. Neeraj Pandey breaks off the regular routine and treads a different path – while the journey itself is riveting, compelling and exhilarating, the destination provides ample food for thought and debate. It is not that the end leaves questions unanswered, but makes you wonder if it is justifiable or acceptable under any circumstances, watch the movie and decide for yourself.

Unadorned Portrait Of India

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Chennai born author Aravind Adiga's debut novel has been awarded the prestigious 2008 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. 34 year old Adiga is the second youngest author ever to win the Prize and also the fourth India- born author to win the Award after Sir Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, and Kiran Desai. The novel was sold instantly in sixteen countries. It has garnered profuse praise from the "Unlike almost any other Indian novel you might have read in recent years, this page-turner offers a completely bald,angry,unadorned portrait of the country as seen from the bottom of the heap...even more impressive is the nitty-gritty of Indian life that Adiga unearths: the corruption, the class system, the sheer petty viciousness." writes Andrew Holgate, in The Sunday Times(London), while the Indian Express comments," An intelligent and ruthless portrait of the India in the making-shining or rising, but always sinking-shot



through with wit and black humor that match the author's economy with words." USA Today's reviewer has this to say, "Aravind Adiga's The White Tiger is one of the most powerful books I've read in decades...But Tiger isn't about race or caste in India. It's about the vast economic inequality between the poor and the wealthy elite. . . . This is an amazing and angry novel about injustice and power."

The first person narrator Balram Halwai is an uneducated son of an impoverished rickshaw-puller in a village in Bihar. Impressed by his ability to read and write the school inspector names him White Tiger (an exceptional student). To help the family pay off the debts, he drops out from school and joins his brother to work in a tea shop. The owners of tea shops are known to exploit illiterate child labor(Even birth certificates are manipulated). Balram soon gets fed up being just one of the human spiders, smashing coals, wiping floors and tables with dirty rags and serving rude customers. He is street smart, patient and observant. Above all, as he says, "I am not an original thinker, but I am an original listener". He quits working in the tea house and with a little financial help from his granny learns to drive and moves to Delhi. He is hired as a chauffeur by Stork (his village's wealthy but corrupt businessman), who has two sons, Mukesh and Ashok (who has returned from U.S.with his Christian wife Pinky madam). Initially, like many chauffeurs he not only drives the car but also does odd jobs like sweeping the courtyard, cooking, shopping, washing and drying two Pomerian dogs, and massaging his master's legs. He lives in squalor with other servants in the basement of his master's palatial building. Slowly he picks up tricks of the trade. While driving, he listens to and observes his employers bribing ministers for tax concessions, boozing hard liquor, visiting prostitutes and indulging in other shady practices. He learns that in the city there are only two castes-men with big bellies and men with small bellies. He too dreams of enjoying life

of the rich and growing a big belly. He makes money on the side-siphoning gas, taking a cut from mechanics, using his master's car as a taxi, and reselling his master's empty whiskey bottles. But that is not enough for him, so he murders Ashok, and escapes to Bangalore with a huge pot of cash. He ends up as a successful entrepreneur, nursing a dream of opening a school which would turn out many white tigers like him.

This fast moving novel takes the form

The White Tiger: A Novel by Aravind Adiga
Free Press New York Paperback
288 pages

of seven letters addressed by Balram to the Chinese Premier on the eve of his state visit to India, wherein he narrates his riveting story of his escape from rural darkness to the city of light where he becomes a successful entrepreneur. Adiga is a brilliant storyteller with uncommon talent. He has a sharp eye for detail and captures the sights, sounds and smells of both rural and urban landscapes. He reveals that under the hype about India being a rising superpower with a rising middle class, there is a large number still living in shadows, in utter poverty and neglect. State has failed this poor majority in education, healthcare and law and order. Poor cooks, cleaners, drivers, nannies, are all trapped in a 'rooster coop'. They can't breathe and yet they don't escape. Family values, ties, identity and concern for the safety of their families prevent them from stealing, disloyalty or committing other crimes against their superiors or the system. Adiga also rails against sham elections, corrupt politicians and police, pollution in rivers and cities and other ills "Despite all this, Balram teaches us that religion doesn't create



Aravind Adiga

virtue-and money doesn't solve every problem-but decency can still be found in a corrupt world and you can get what you want out of life if you eavesdrop on the right conversations. . . .the voice of its narrator- utterly amoral, irreverent, deeply endearing and altogether unforgettable."

Adiga's exquisitely crafted novel is crackling, witty, angry and with blistering suspense. It is highly entertaining as well as thought provoking. It has a Reading Group Guide and Author Q&A. The novel is definitely a must read.

Aravind Adiga was born in Madras (now Chennai), India in 1974 and raised partly in Sydney, Australia. He attended Columbia and Oxford Universities. A former correspondent for Time magazine, he has also been published in the Financial Times. He lives in Mumbai, India.



KIDS ZONE
MAITHILI BHAT

Why Leaves Change Color In Fall



An Ojibwe story

Nanabozho is considered the great uncle of Ojibwe people. He is part man and part manito (spirit) and is capable of silly mischief as well as great deeds.

When Nanabozho was a boy, earth was new. His Grandmother Nokomis made him some paints. She mixed dyes out of Moonlight, Shadows, Snowflakes and Sand. She made Silky blues from night, Soft greens from Reindeer Moss. She squeezed sparkle out of Shooting Stars. All the colors were put in a pot, which was enclosed in a pouch.

"Make beauty, Nanabozho" she said, "Paint the flowers today".

Nanabozho skipped off to the field full of pale white flowers. He dipped his brush into purple paint pot and carefully painted the petals.

He saw lady bugs crawling. In those days, lady bugs were plain red. He painted a black dot on that ladybug and thought it looked very interesting. He ran around and dotted every ladybug he could find.

Nanabozho caught bee in his hand. At that time, bees did not have stingers and stripes.

He painted stripes around the bee's body.

"What else can I decorate", he wondered.

Raccoon's plain, gray tail was hanging from a tree. He quickly painted the stripes around it.

He caught Heron and painted him blue.

He grabbed Fox and painted her red.

He put spots on Salamander and painted red cap on Woodpecker and black cap on Chickadee.

Then he noticed a sparrow. "Poor Sparrow", he cried "Neither sparkly feather nor a bright color". But Sparrow hopped up.

"Come here. I want to make you beautiful", said Nanabozho.

Sparrow flew higher and peeked down.

Nanabozho climbed lower branches. He reached out to grab Sparrow, but it darted away.

Nanabozho lost balance and tumbled backward. His shirt snagged and there Nanabozho hung from the tree branch. But paints and dyes spilled everywhere.

The trees shrieked "Look what you have done to our lovely green leaves".

"I am sorry", said Nanabozho "It was an accident".

"Oh", the trees groaned and said "You need to scrub us clean".

He looked around trees and the colors were everywhere.

All the birds and animals were gathered.

"Oooh..." said Owl.

"Ahh..." said Raven.

"Beautiful" croaked the Frog.

"So pretty, so pretty!" twittered Chickadee.

The trees hushed and wondered if they were prettier now?

Oak blushed deep red. Aspen's leaves glowed with golden yellow. Maple whispered "Do not feel bad Nanabozho. I like my new colors".

Soon other trees forgave Nanabozho too.

Now every year, we remember how Nanabozho spilled his paints and made the trees look beautiful. Since Maple was the first to forgive, it is the prettiest of all.

Fall Leaf Rubbings

Craft Materials:

- *Paper
- *Autumn leaves
- *Colored pencils or crayons
- *Poster paint and brushes



Time needed: Under 1 Hour

1. To make leaf rubbing cards, fold a sheet of paper in half widthwise and place a leaf, vein side up, inside the folded sheet. You will now have a card with a leaf hidden inside.

2. Use colored pencils or crayons to gently rub over the leaf so that the shape becomes visible on the cover of the card (switch colors midway to create a variegated leaf). Remove the leaf, then repeat with other leaves and colors.

3. To make painted leaf prints, first cover the work area with newspaper. Place a leaf vein side up on the newspaper and dab paint onto the leaf. (To create a multicolored effect, dab other colors onto the same leaf.) Carefully picking up the leaf, place it paint side down on the front of the card and press down on it to make a print (try a few test prints to figure out the right amount of paint.) Repeat with other leaves.

Autumn Word Search



Find these autumn words:

apple	fall	maple	rice
brown	farmer	migrate	scarecrow
chilly	fruit	November	September
cold	grain	October	sweater
colors	harvest	orange	vegetables
corn	hay	pear	yellow
country	leaf	pumpkin	
crops	leaves	red	



WHAT'S COOKING?

BY P.S. LAKSHMI RAO

Sweet & Hot Diamonds (Two-In-One)

2 Cups all purpose flour (maida)

1-Tablespoon rice flour

1-Tablespoon hot oil

½ Cup water

1 Pinch of salt

1 1/2 Cups oil for frying (depending upon the size of the frying pan)

2 Stems curry leaves

stiff dough. Knead the dough for three minutes with oily hands. Make 8 balls. Roll each ball in to six-inch diameter circles. Cut them into one-inch diamonds.

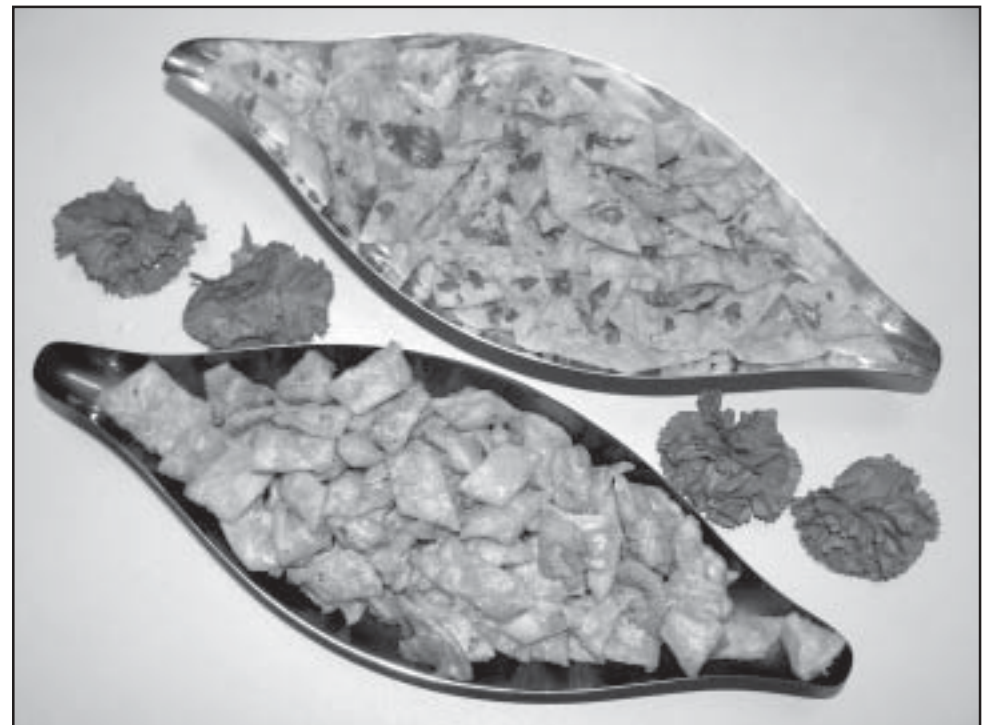
Heat 1½ cups oil in a frying pan in low heat and fry handful of diamonds until they become light brown and crispy. Remove them to a

paper towel to absorb oil. After all the diamonds are fried separate half the diamonds for sweet and half the diamonds for hot or spicy snack.

Turn the heat off and add curry leaves and fry. Remove leaves from the oil. Blot with paper towel and save them.

Sweet diamonds

In a large pan mix brown sugar and water. Boil for three minutes to make sugar syrup. Put a drop of syrup in little water. When the drop becomes a hard ball the syrup is done. Remove the pan from the heat. Add the diamonds and



For Sweet Diamonds

1 1/2 Cups brown sugar

1/2 Cup water

½ Teaspoon crushed cardamom seeds

For Hot Diamonds

1 Teaspoon red pepper (ground)

½ Teaspoon crushed cumin seeds

¾ Teaspoon salt or to taste

Dough:

Mix all purpose flour, rice flour and salt with hot oil. Add water, and mix until it becomes

cardamom powder. Mix gently so that the diamonds are not broken.

Hot (spicy) diamonds

Mix second half of the fried diamonds, ground red pepper, cumin powder, salt, and also the fried curry leaves. Add more salt and red pepper according to your taste.

Keep the diamonds in separate containers with tight lids. If you pack them in decorative jars, you can give them as holiday gifts.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Have a cooking tip to share with our readers?
Email tip to contact@nripulse.com.

Memorial For Dr. Kancherla...

Continued from Pg4.....

Friends of Aruna Prasad were asked to speak and his oldest friend Dr. Kamath was the first. He recalled his close association with Dr.Kancherla at the George H. Lanier Memorial Hospital since 1979. He said that he had very strong work ethics. He was devoted to his work and had a calming influence in meetings and discussions. He confided in him on important career and family matters and above all his great work, what he always remembers the most is Dr. Kancherla's smile and his endearing way with patients.

Dr.Kancherla's Secretary, Paula Humphrey called his boss a caring and patient instructor. He taught her how to use a computer. He was very fond of Mercedes cars, and he had a few, she said(laughter)." I was his chauffeur, secretary, shopper, and a friend. He was a large part of my life and I will miss him dearly." She recited a very moving poem with words of comfort for the family.

Dr.Mangaraja Vanapalli said Dr.Kancherla was a dear friend and a colleague. He introduced him to a wide circle of physicians. He was a very lively, fun-loving friend. He recited a very poignant poem.

Madhu's father-in-law Dr. Subbiaha from St.Louis, said that he had known Aruna Prasad for over 12 years. He was very genial, kind hearted and loving. He treated his daughter(Madhu's wife Madhuri)just like Madhu's sister Sree Ratna.

Dr. Bhaskar Rao said that Aruna Prasad was his partner during 1968 to 1970. Dr.Kancherla was in plastic surgery whereas he was in general surgery. He was a great listener as well as giver of good advice. He recited a Stanza by Sri Ramana Maharshi, with words of solace, "Body is a karmic prison, so do not despair. Just bless your loved one-wish him bon voyage for onward journey to eternity with all your heart and all your love. You are still in my total love. All is forgiven. Nurture this love which is God itself. Be happy that you had such a wonderful person in your life and be grateful to God for everything."

Past President of Hindu Temple Dr.Sujatha Reddy recounted her close association with Dr.Kancherla and his family. She called him very honest, generous, determined and focused on the improvement of the Temple and its role in the community. "Just as a butterfly is released from its cocoon, the soul departs from the physical body, free of pain, fears and worries," she concluded.

One of the Founding Trustees, Dr.B.K.Mohan who has been a long time friend and associate of Dr.Kancherla said that over 30 years they traveled together many times and attended many parties including 25th anniversary party and Sree Ratna's Graduation party. He assured the family of his full support in days ahead.

India Tribune Atlanta Bureau Chief Ravi R. Ponangi who spoke in Telugu.said, "Dr.Kancherla had qualities of dedication, commitment and truthfulness in plenty, so essential for public service. He always listened to view of others and thought highly of volunteers of the temple. He was deeply spiritual and as president, he organized several outstanding events like Sahasra Lingarchana, Temple kumbhabhishekam, etc. and invited so many enlightened persons and scholars like Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Swami Dayananda, Swami chidatmananda, Swami Sukhabodhananda, Swami Adhyatmananda, Sri Karunamayi Amma,

to name a few. Ravi recited Mahamrityunjaya Mahamantra invoking the God's blessings to shower His Choicest blessings and to take the departed soul to highest lokas and to grant his soul permanent peace. He concluded by assuring Smt.Parvathy of full support.

Past President of Hindu Temple, Dr.G.V.Raghu, who knew Dr.Kancherla for the past 15 years, said that he tried to introduce spiritual content in Temple activities and events geared for the young generation. The image of the Temple grew under his leadership. He said that in the last days he feels Aruna Prasad practiced detachment and was one pointedly with God.

Aruna Prasad's brother-in-law, Chandra Mohan, came from India said he was a generous man and in fact he helped him raise funds in the U.S. to build an Old Age home in India. He thanked Parvathy for taking good care of her husband while he was ill.

Sree Ratna who was overcome with emotion spoke a few words about her father whom she described as a 'sage in disguise' "Many times I asked my father advice, and at the end of our conversations he would always reply, "Life is so simple. Don't complicate it. Just be happy." Ratna went on to recite the poetic lines she had written to her dad on Fathers Day, June 18,2000. She then invited the gathering to watch a video picture montage of her dad's journey through a rich life, well lived.

A few more eulogies by family friends were delivered reiterating the life-enriching qualities and persona of Dr Kancherla.

A well recognized community activist and the Chairman of the Gandhi Foundation of USA.(GFUSA) Subash Razdan in his tribute said, "My prayers go out to the Kancherla family. Dr. Kancherla was a lion of a man, who lived his life with courage and compassion. As he would tell his children, 'Life is simple, do not complicate it', he really believed in simplicity and practiced what he preached. Thank you Aruna Prasad for a life well lived. We shall miss you but always remember your legacy."

A delicious dinner catered by Swapna Restaurant was served to all on behalf of the Kancherla family.

Dr.Aruna Prasad will be remembered as a caring physician, loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. He was an outstanding community leader whose legacy will continue to inspire others.

What Obama Presidency Means For India...

Continued from Pg10.....

With the global financial crisis affecting emerging economies like India, Obama's advocacy of a stricter oversight on the financial institutions and greater state interventionism also inspires greater confidence in this country, said Mahapatra.

Not all are so enthusiastic about the Obama presidency in India though. The diplomatic establishment and strategic circles are treading cautiously, especially after Obama's recent remarks on Kashmir, which they see as a throwback to American postures 10 years ago.

In an interview to MSNBC, Obama had said: "We should probably try to facilitate a better understanding between Pakistan and India and try to resolve the Kashmir crisis so that they can stay focused not on India, but on the situation with those militants."

"It is ill-advised and outdated and reflects his advisers have not kept up with the times," said Arundhati Ghose, a former Indian diplomat who represented India

in the UN, while advising a wait and watch policy towards the Obama administration.

K. Subrahmanyam, however, counseled that India should not overreact. "Obama is a flexible intellectual. Let's wait and watch".

Mahatma Gandhi Anniversay Celebrations...

Continued from Pg7.....

Historic District. He reminded the gathering that last year, United Nations had declared 2nd October as an 'International Day of Non-Violence', so he felt happy to be celebrating not only Mahatma's birthday anniversary but also second anniversary of 'International Day of Non-Violence' and that too at the most revered Statue.

Following the floral homage to Gandhiji at the resplendent Mahatma Gandhi Statue, Arunaben Patel and Raju Gokarn led the gathering into singing Gandhi's favorite bhajans 'Raghupati Raghav' and 'Vaishanava Janato'

On this occasion, the gathering also remembered and paid tributes to Late Giriraj Rao for his selfless service to promote the awareness of the message of Gandhiji. "This is the first time Giribhai has not been with us for Gandhi Birthday celebrations", said Thaliath.

Razdan led a moment of silence and prayers to remember Hon. Terrell Slayton, former Asst. Secretary of State of Georgia and Chair of the 100 Black Men who had passed away a few days earlier. "Hon. Terrel Slayton Jr. had an enviable track record of selfless and uplifting social and community service. He was very cheerful, inspiring and humble. He was a great friend of the Indian-American community and also Gandhi Foundation of USA. He will be greatly missed. He and his family will be in our thoughts and prayers. May God rest his soul in peace," prayed Razdan.

Bapushahi Dairo...

Continued from Pg7.....

and Manish Joshi followed with 'Jai,Jai Garavi Gujarat' and 'Halo bhai aapna malakma.' Tripti sang an old time Gujarati favorite 'Chhanu re chhapnu' while Manish sang another vintage song 'pankhidaane aa pinjaroo'.Requests for more choice songs began pouring in from the audience. But it was 'Dama Dam Masta Kalandar' that rocked the audience. In between songs, Vora cracked a few rib tickling jokes. Few more songs followed. After the most welcome tea break, Nadirbhai thanked Vora and his troupe for presenting the riveting dairo. He further thanked Kalpeshbhai Patel of Patel Bros.for the delicious dinner and indefatigable volunteers Ghanshyam Patel, Mrs.Prafula Patel, Ramesh Pandya,Mahendra Shah, Amit Shah, Rambhai, Arunaben Patel,Mayoor Patel(for sound);Sanjay Patel, Sanjay Pandya,Anwarbhai, Mustafa Ajmeri, and all the sponsors of the event. He finally thanked the audience and the media for supporting the event and making it a memorable one.

With unbounding zest and joy, Vora, Tripti and Manish regaled the audience with old gems like 'kasumbi no rang', a quawwali 'Shirdi wale Saibaba, aaye hai tere dar pe'; 'ajeeb dastaan hai ye', and .famed Gujarati composer Avinash Vyas's song 'Dada ho dikri'. Vora's narration of a mother's love for her children and his heart rending song of a blind mother's letter expressing her concern and unconditional love for his son,toiling away in Mumbai had many listeners teary-eyed.

Manish and Tripti sang few more Bollywood songs like 'tadap tadapke is dil se.' The musicians too performed with gusto, displaying amazing teamwork..

Thunderous applause greeted each member of the troupe introduced by Vora;viz.; Deepak Bhavsar(keyboard);Sujit Vandur(tabla);Pramod More(Dholak)Bindesh Pande(Side rhythm) and singers Tripti Chhaya and Manish Joshi.

A Dream Comes True...

Continued from Pg1.....

Antony Thaliath, Executive Director of GFUSA said, "This is an appropriate resolution between two entities that have two of the greatest apostles of peace, Gandhiji and M.L. King Jr. whose legacies are cherished by the majestic life size Gandhi Statue and the King Center."

In the Senate Chamber, Razdan thanked Senator Judson Hill for his tireless efforts to pass the Resolution. Senator Hill welcomed all and recognized the centuries-old close relationship with India, and then read the contents of the Resolution before presenting it to the Ambassador Sen. Accepting the Resolution, Sen said, "I appreciate this special gesture and feel privileged to accept this on behalf of the Government of India and the Indian American community.

In his thought provoking keynote speech, Sen lauded the work done by Razdan and his colleagues in cementing the bond between the peoples of United States and India and also legacies of Gandhi and Dr. King. There is a broad range of cooperation going on between India and the USA, especially in the agricultural sector.

Razdan had everyone laughing when he joked, "Today history was made in Georgia, and it is probably one for the Guinness book of world record as well, that Indian cuisine was allowed to be served for the first time in the State Capitol. Maybe, instead of Peach State, we could now call Georgia a Chutney State!"

Sen also mentioned about India's Moon Mission, "As I speak, we are halfway to the moon. So even the sky is not the limit for us. We are carrying two US payloads-NASA John Hopkins and NASA Brown. We are carrying modern equipment to map areas not mapped before."

Senator Hill thanked Ambassador Sen for being instrumental in setting up of the Consulate of India in Atlanta and encouraging Delta to venture direct flights into Mumbai.

Razdan then invited members of the GFUSA and AACC, the two organizations who had persevered for the successful passing of the Resolution 1248 to step up near the podium and accept the Resolution from its author Senator Hill.

The event, which was hosted by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, Senator Judson Hill, Asian American Chamber of Commerce, The Gandhi Foundation of USA and members of the Indian American Diaspora and sponsored by Perimeter CID, highlighted the state's deep connection with the international community, especially with India, with the announcement of opening of the Indian Consulate in Atlanta in the very near future.

Earlier, the Ambassador met with Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue in the Governor's Chamber along with Kenneth Stewart, Commissioner Trade & Commerce, Mayor Eva Galamboss of Sandy Springs and Senator Judson Hill.

During the social hour, Ambassador Sen patiently mingled with the prominent community members, business and political leaders while the organizers ensured warm hospitality, by catering snacks and also distributing traditional box of sweets in the spirit festooned with Diwali. "This is the best Diwali gift for Georgia and the community," exclaimed one enthusiastic participant.

EVENTS

Fourth Annual Regional Conference Of US P A A C C-S-E

NOVEMBER 14

Event Agenda:
8:00 - 9:00 Registration and Networking
9:00 - 9:10 Welcome
9:10 - 9:50 Panel 'How to Bring Ideas & Innovation to Market', with Dave Savage, of Investors Association, and team
9:50 - 10:00 Break
10:00 - 10:40 The Dollars and Sense for Small Businesses, with SBA Office and Bankers
10:40 - 12:10 How to Supercharge Your Business and Yourself with Boaz Rauchwerger
12:10 - 12:50 Lunch
12:50 - 1:40 Keynote - 'How Your Business Can Survive and Thrive In the Midst of Rising Energy Costs', with GE
1:40 - 1:50 Closing Remarks
2:00 - 4:00 Trade Show
When: Nov 14, 2008, Time: 8:00 a.m till 4:00 p.m
Where: GE Energy Building, 4200 Wildwood Pkwy. (Auditorium), Atlanta, GA-30339
Contact: Fify Manan Tel: 770-381-9616 Email: fify@formcase.com

Saakar presents Taj Mahal Ka Tender

NOVEMBER 15

Awarded Best Hindi Play
When: Sat Nov 15 at 3 pm at North Atlanta High School, 2875 Northside Dr., NW, Atlanta GA 30305
Sun Nov 16 at 3 pm North Atlanta High School, 2875 Northside Dr., NW, Atlanta GA 30305
and Sun Nov 23 at 5 pm at Meadowcreek High School, 4455 Steve Reynolds Blvd., Norcross GA 30093
Contact: Mini: 770-270-1758 or email aaam@bellsouth.net

Gospel Musical Evening at Atlanta Tamil Church

NOVEMBER 15

By Sis. Esther Baby.
When: Nov 15, 2008 at 6.00PM
Where: Atlanta Tamil Church, 2534 Duluth Highway, Duluth, GA-30093
Contact: Rev. Palmer Paramadhas, Tel: 770 723-1711
Email: pastor@atlantatamilchurch.org
Web Link: <http://www.atlantatamilchurch.org>

Homage To Lord Nataraja

NOVEMBER 16

7th Annual Dance Program On 'Karanas'. Free Admission. Donations Towards HTA Siva Temple.
When: Nov 16, 2008 at 2.00PM
Where: Hindu Temple of Atlanta, Riverdale, 5851 GA HIGHWAY, RIVERDALE GA-30274
Contact: Sujaya Dixit, 770-955-1881

Financial Turmoil And Regional Growth Prospects

NOVEMBER 19

Quarterly Forecasting Conference by Dr. Rajeew Dhawan.
When: Nov 19, 2008, Time: 8:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Where: Speaker's Auditorium, Georgia State

University Student Center
Contact: Courtney Raines 404-413-7267

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan Live in Concert

NOVEMBER 21

When: Friday, Nov 21
Where: Impact Conference Center, Global Mall
Contact: Mustafa Ajmeri at 678-463-6613

Harinam And Lord Krishna Bhajans organized by Hare Krishna Temple,

NOVEMBER 21

Atlanta at Global Mall on November, Friday the 21st and every third Friday of each month. All are invited to participate. Please contact Balabhadra Das Tel 404 296 5209, Madanmohan, No. 770 979 6679.
When: Nov 21, 2008, Time: 7.30 p.m to 9.00 p.m
Where: Global Mall, 5675 Global Mall, Jimmy Carter Blvd, Norcross, GA-30076
Contact: Mohanlal Fatania, Tel : 770 979 6679
Email: mohanvf@yahoo.com
Web Link: <http://atlantaharekrishnas.org>

83rd Birthday Celebrations Of Sathya Sai Baba

NOVEMBER 22

When: Nov 22, 2008, Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Where: 827 Village Manor Place, Suwannee, GA 30024
Contact: Rao Damaraju, Tel: (404)-931-5327
Web Link: <http://www.atlsaiseva.org>

Art of Living Foundation

NOVEMBER 11-23

Free Seminars (pre-register at <http://secure.artofliving.org>; ages 18+)
November 11, 18, (Tuesday) 6pm - 8pm
Venue: Borders Bookstore, 605 Ernest W Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Ph (678)581.1243

Art of Living Foundation

Free Seminars (pre-register at <http://secure.artofliving.org>; ages 18+)
November 15, 22 (Saturday) 4 pm - 5 pm
Venue: Art of Living Atlanta Center, 7730 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA, 30350

Art Of Living Course

Dates: Nov 11 - 16, 2008 (6 sessions: Tuesday to Sunday)
Times: Tu, We, Th, Fr: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM; Sa, Su: 10 AM - 4 PM
Place: Art of Living Atlanta Center, 7730 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA, 30350
Course Fee : \$450 general, \$275/students, seniors (\$75 discount on all registrations received a week before the course start date)
Register online at <http://secure.artofliving.org>

Art Of Living Course

Dates: Nov 18 - 23, 2008 (6 sessions: Tuesday to Sunday)
Times: Tu, We, Th, Fr: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM; Sa, Su: 10 AM - 4 PM
Place: Studioplex Lofts, 659 Auburn Ave, Atlanta, GA 30312
Course Fee : \$450 general, \$275/students, seniors
\$75 discount on all registrations received a week before the course start date)
Register online at <http://secure.artofliving.org>

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HOROSCOPES

Monthly Forecast for November 2008

For weekly forecast, visit www.NRIPulse.com

BY DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA



ARIES: This month you would be able to bring success at workplace with the help of your sharp mind and ability to understand any intricate problem. Some dazzling beauty or a handsome personality will attract you and your will begin a romantic ride. You will get rid of your prolonged illness after strict monitoring.



TAURUS: In mid of the month monotonous work could affect professional charm. Keep your frustration under control and don't let it affect work. Try to concentrate on reaching an ambitious goal. This way you can make enormous progress in a short time. There are chances that you may get attracted towards someone special at your workplace and you will fall in love towards the middle of the month. However, it will be in your interest to keep the relationship a secret for the time being. This month overweight persons need to be more conscious about their health.



GEMINI: Your dream to be a fighter pilot is likely to materialize this month as you get success in your entrance examination. Time has come when you will have to devote yourself fully to make it a reality. Behave decently with your partner as during this month you might confront with your worst time in romance as your highly impolite behavior can ruin your love affair. Expectant mothers could suffer stress problem this month.



CANCER: This month you may face tough situations at workplace but your ability to sort them out with your sharp mind would help you to grow professionally. This month there are chances that you will spend some quality time with your partner that will help both of you in understanding each other well. Overweight people may have to suffer this month so follow this weight control mantra i.e. just make it a habit to avoid spicy & junk food.



LEO: Promising month for professionals engaged in the field of architecture, as they are likely to get an offer from abroad. Your dull life will get brighten this month as there are strong chances of meeting long-separated beloved/lover. Good month for the persons suffering from digestive problems as they are likely to find a remedy for their ailment.



VIRGO: This month you would not be able to achieve a strong position at workplace due to your lack of self confidence and quick decision making power. You are likely to face some disappointment on wasting valuable time in one-sided affair. Health related problems could cause some concerns.



LIBRA: Your unique quality of adaptability i.e. to adjust in all situations will bring benefits and you will get recognition of your seniors. This month you might get the support from a caring, sensitive & understanding friend who would fit into your romantic dreams. Don't slip the golden opportunity from your hand. Good month on health front as you get rid of mental stress and physical illness.



SCORPIO: Your mental stress and unplanned activities will not bring good results at professional front and you will fail to achieve set professional targets by month end. A promising month when you have ample time to enjoy the company of partner. The opportunity would not only recreate some romantic memories but also brighten life, as you are successful in understanding each other better. Headache could trouble especially at the end of the month.



SAGITTARIUS: For those seeking change in job, this is a good month as you will get the most awaited interview call. This month you may have to suffer with the separation of your partner or beloved as he/she may have to go out of the town or country for some reason. Disabled people will be benefited this month as they use their tremendous potentials to fight their disability.



CAPRICORN: Chances are that you are likely to suffer from excess workload on the professional front. This month you are likely to face some volatile time in your love affair. There are even chances that it could force you to snap ties. In mid month there are chances that pain around the eyes, forehead or temples could trouble.



AQUARIUS: This month you may have to suffer with the crisis at workplace but support of colleagues will save you this time and help you maintain your position. A little misunderstanding with your partner will take a big shape this month and you have to handle this situation very tactfully. The good news is that your cheerfulness would enable you to enjoy a sound health.



PISCES: This month you have to suffer at workplace as one golden opportunity will slip from your hands due to lack of your communication skills. You are likely to fall in love but there are chances that it will not last long because your partner probably does not think of you as a long-term prospect. This month there are possibilities that you could suffer minor health problems.

Help! I Hate My Job!

Dear Deep Essence,

I am deeply dissatisfied with my job. Let's face it, I hate getting up in the morning because I know I have to go to work. I have a great business idea but I don't have enough savings to start it. With the current economy, I don't even know if starting a business is a good idea. I know this job provides for me but I am irritated all the time. I am taking out my anger on my family and friends. I feel stuck and unmotivated about life. Is there a solution to this problem?



AQSA ZAREEN FAROOQUI

Dear Deep Essence

Dear Deeply Dissatisfied,

The good news is you have several options available to you. But the bad news is the only way you can start feeling better is to accept your current situation. Don't fight, resist, or argue that it be different. Because guess what? It's not. As long as you are in denial of your reality, you won't be able to make a decision that works for you because you will be spending too much time feeling sorry for yourself. Once you can accept things just as they are, you will experience clarity and that will motivate you in the right direction.

As far as the business idea goes, why wait for it to happen someday, why not start today? That doesn't mean you get a loan, and starting selling your product or services today. It does mean that you take a few minutes out per day to allow yourself time and space to define your vision. Then, start to develop a business plan. As you start feeling passionate about your business idea, you may start to have a different perspective on your job situation. You may start to view your job as a stepping stone towards your future goals. You do need your job at this time to help you pay your bills. Try to start saving every month, so you can start your business. Life requires

money and passion and you deserve to enjoy the best of both worlds.

The advice may be helpful but is not intended as a substitute for professional care. Aqsa Zareen Farooqui is a Licensed Professional Counselor. To send her a question about stress, depression, parenting, relationship or career concerns, email her at info@deepsence.com All inquiries will be kept strictly confidential. For more information log on to: www.deepsence.com.

Letters to the Editor

Email your thoughts/opinions to editor@NRIPulse.com. Selected emails will be published in the forthcoming issue of NRI Pulse.

SuDoku Challenge

Rules: 1.The 3 x 3 sub grids are called *regions*
2.Numbers already filled in the grid are called *givens*
3.The goal of the player is to fill the blank grids of

- Every row
- Every column and
- Every 3 x 3 box
- With the numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9

However: All rows and columns and regions (3 x 3) should contain numbers 1 to 9 without being repeated.

SuDoku Solutions

9	7	8	2	4	3	5	6	1
5	4	2	9	1	8	7	9	3
6	1	3	7	5	9	2	8	4
7	8	4	5	9	6	1	3	2
3	6	5	1	2	7	8	4	9
2	9	1	8	3	4	6	5	7
1	2	9	3	8	5	4	7	6
8	3	7	4	6	2	9	1	5
4	5	6	9	7	1	3	2	8

8				7		9	5	
	1		2	9		7		
					3			
	5	9				1		2
6								3
2		1				4	8	
			6					
		7		1	9		4	
	9	5		4				6

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