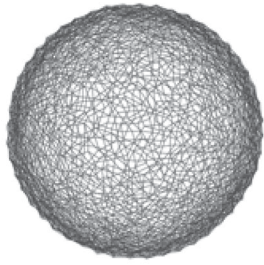


## Indians More Worried Than Chinese, Americans On Climate Change



COP15  
COPENHAGEN  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

Washington: (IANS) Just before world leaders assemble in Copenhagen to discuss climate change, a new global survey shows sharp differences among people in different countries about global warming.

Throwing up an interesting contrast in the world's two fastest growing nations, China and India, the Global Attitudes survey by the respected Pew Research Center shows 67 percent Indians are worried about global warming as against just 30 percent Chinese.

The survey, conducted from May 18 to June 16, shows that there is a lot less concern about climate change in the three major polluters US, Russia and China than in other leading nations.

Compared to 90 percent in Brazil, 68 percent in France, 67 percent in India, 65 percent in Japan, 61 percent in Spain and 60 percent in Germany, only 44 percent in the US and Russia say they are concerned about climate change. At 30 percent, the Chinese are least concerned about climate change, says the survey.

In fact, in India, China and Brazil which have enjoyed strong economic growth in recent years, eight in 10 people favour giving priority to the environment over rapid economic expansion. According to the survey, people in these countries are willing to make sacrifices such as having to pay higher prices to protect the environment.

Anxiety about global warming is also less pervasive among Israelis (48 percent), Kenyans (48 percent), Canadians (47 percent) and Indonesians (44 percent).

However, large majorities in every country believe that global warming is a serious problem, with majorities in 15 of the 25 countries say it is "very serious." Also, majorities in 23 of 25 countries agree that protecting the environment should be given priority, even at the cost of slower economic growth and job losses.

## Indian Talent Helps Silicon Valley: US Think Tank

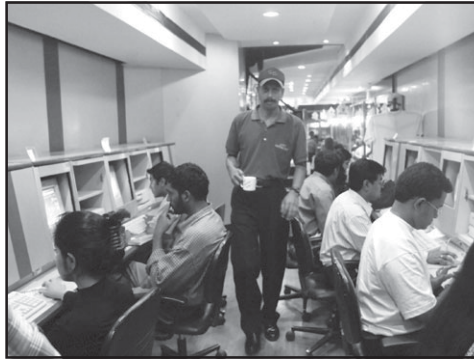
Santa Clara (California): (IANS) Global technology and innovation hub Silicon Valley needs "Indian talent and entrepreneurial energy" to build powerful businesses, according to a economic and policy think tank in the US.

In a report titled "Global Reach: Emerging Ties Between the Bay Area and India", the Bay Area Council Economic Institute said Silicon Valley success stories have always had an Indian edge and the cooperation with Indian talent will continue "to unleash powerful businesses".

The institute is a public-private partnership of business, labour, government and higher education that works to support the economic vitality and competitiveness of California and the Bay Area.

According to the 300-page report, the research institutions and technology companies in Silicon Valley and its risk-taking culture will work better when juxtaposed with Indian talent and entrepreneurial energy.

However, the council warned that the present visa and immigration policies of the US restricted access to global talent.



"US visa and immigration policy unnecessarily restricts access to global talent, fails to compete aggressively for top foreign students and researchers, and discourages them from staying to contribute to the economy," said the report.

This leads students and recent immigrants to return home, especially at a juncture when India is no more a destination for lower-end work as against the innovation streams in the Valley, it added.

The council also said the Bay Area was now working on plans to create stronger ties between Silicon Valley and cities like Bangalore.

The India report is the second in a series that explores the Bay Area's ties with emerging economic giants. The first one related to the region's strong links with China.

## Reliance Big Inks Deal With Hollywood Filmmakers



Los Angeles: (IANS) Reliance BIG Entertainment, the media and entertainment arm of the Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, has signed a development-production financing deal with Hollywood filmmakers Brian Grazer and Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment.

Their first project, titled "Mofos", will be a comedy revolving round a group of youngsters who are unemployed, strapped for cash, down on their luck and decide to start a business as Los Angeles' most unlikely male escorts.

"Ron and I are very pleased to have signed this deal with our friends at Reliance," said Grazer.

"With their huge expertise in one of the most exciting film industries in the world, they bring a wholly different global perspective to our Hollywood-based industry and we welcome the extra independence their financing will give us," he added.

Titled Creative Partnerships, the deal was brokered by Creative Artists Agency, a prominent entertainment and sports agency headquartered in Los Angeles.

## Manmohan's US Visit Renewed Commitment To Strategic Partnership: Meera Shankar

Washington: (IANS) With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's US visit renewing the two governments' commitment to the India-US strategic partnership, they will work together to advance global stability, security and sustainable development, according to the Indian envoy here.

The visit last week, "we believe, has renewed the commitment of the two governments to this partnership and has laid the foundation for strengthening cooperation across the extraordinary breadth of our bilateral engagement", Indian ambassador to the US Meera Shankar said recently.

"They also agreed on expeditious comple-

tion of the remaining steps in the implementation of the civil nuclear agreement, which will open enormous opportunities for boosting economic ties and addressing the shared concerns on energy security and climate change," she said in a speech at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

"The ongoing transformation of the Indian economy provides new avenues to strengthen her economic engagement with the US in ways that advance the economic welfare of our people and puts our economies on a more sustainable path," added Shankar, speaking on "India and the United States - A Growing Partnership."

"But, beyond that, we will work together to advance global stability, security and sustainable development as we respond to the opportunities and challenges of our shared world," she said adding:

"This is a relationship, which can be, as President Obama said, one of the defining relationships of the 21st century."

Obama and Manmohan Singh also "discussed avenues for working together to accelerate global

economic recovery and to put it on a more sustainable and balanced path in the future" besides issues of security, stability and economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, Shankar said.

"The elimination of terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries in Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only vital for security and stability in our region, it is also vital for making our world a safer place," she said.

"India and the United States have transformed their relationship, building and deepening cooperation across a very wide field, redefining paradigms and turning constraints of the past into opportunities for the future," Shankar said.

"India's ties with the United States have emerged as one of our most comprehensive partnerships, nurtured not only by the engagement between the govern-

ments, but also by the vitality of our fast expanding private partnerships and warmth of ties between our peoples."

"A new element is the growth in Indian investments into the United States. In fact, on the basis of annual flows, Indian FDI in the US has exceeded US foreign direct investment into India in recent years in diverse sectors," she noted.



Ambassador Meera Shankar

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